NEWS / A18

Stop Cha-cha, GMA urged by new group that includes CBCP president Lagdameo

BUSINESS / B1

Globe slams Smart anew for 'monopolistic' PLDT telcos' pricing scheme

METRO / A19

Pastor, lawyer shot dead in front of QC church after Bible study

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-4

Meryl Streep deliciously wicked a mean fashion editor

Mike Arroyo back on public display

RETURN OF THE COMEBACK

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

CLOSE TO A YEAR AFTER going on voluntary exile to take the heat off his wife, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is now back on public display.

Arroyo returns to the public

MIKE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, June 23, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 195 P18 website: www.inq7.net

SC upholds 'live-in' setup if approved by religion

By Armand N. Nocum

FILIPINOS CAN ENTER INTO A "LIVE-IN" RELATIONSHIP if this is allowed by their religions, a landmark ruling of the Supreme Court—concurred in by nine of the 15 justices—declared yesterday.

Dissenting justices led by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban warned that the ruling could open the floodgates to people who would use religion as an

SC UPHOLDS/ A8

GMA rushed to St. Luke's

Suffered acute stomach pains while having dinner

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WAS RUSHED TO ST. LUKE'S Medical Center last night after complaining of abdominal pains while having dinner at a restaurant on Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and some Cabinet members, including Health Secretary Francisco Duque, were present at what was supposedly a pre-birthday dinner for Mr. Arroyo whose birthday falls on the 27th when the President is scheduled to be in Europe.

It was Duque who reportedly told the President that she looked pale and had to rest ("maputla na siya").

She returned to Malacañang where she was examined by Presidential Security Group Dr. Paveena Aguinaldo, who then advised her to go to the hospital. It was 9:30 p.m. when she was brought to St. Luke's by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said he was told by the doctors the President was safe, that there was nothing to worry about because all she had was an upset stomach.

She was diagnosed by Dr. Julieta Cervantes, chief of St. Luke's Liver Center, and Dr. Joven Cuanang, a neurologist and senior vice president for medical affairs of the hospital.

But Defensor said the President would have to remain at the hospital. The First Gentleman

GMA RUSHED/ A6

LYN RILLON

OUT OF MINDANAO: Soldiers from the 3rd, 4th and 9th IBs pulled out of Mindanao for deployment in Quezon get a rousing reception from President Arroyo, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Senga (center), Army chief Gen. Esperon and the controversial Maj. Gen. Palparan.

Business to gov't: Protect us vs NPA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

"CAN THE GOVERNMENT PROTECT us?"

This was the common reaction of businessmen interviewed by the INQUIRER to a Malacañang warning that companies giving in to extortion by communist rebels would face criminal charges as part of a crackdown on the Maoist insurgency.

Businessmen yesterday said their compliance with a Palace order for them to stop paying so-called "revolutionary taxes" hinged on the government's capability to protect them and their enterprises from reprisal by the communist New People's Army.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee said no businessman wanted to give in to NPA demands for money. "But if we refuse, can we be protected by the AFP or PNP? If so how do we get the protection?" Dee asked.

Consumer advocate and businessman Raul T. Concepcion said the government should have

NPA / A4

Lopezes reassert P3-B stake in EPCIB

MANUEL M. LOPEZ

EUGENIO LOPEZ III

OSCAR M. LOPEZ

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LOPEZ FAMILY AND ITS flagship firm, First Philippine Holdings Corp., yesterday reasserted their claim over a P3-billion stake in Equitable PCI Bank that may determine who ends up controlling the country's third largest financial institution.

Family patriarch Oscar M. Lopez said the 7.13-percent stake sequestered by the government from Trans Middle East (Phils.) Equity Inc. of the Romualdez family actually belonged to the Lopezes as part of their business empire seized by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies soon after the declaration of martial law in 1972.

At a press briefing yesterday, brothers Oscar and Manuel M. Lopez and their nephew Eugenio "Gabby" L. Lopez III issued a joint statement saying their family "has not forgotten the injustice they suffered under the Marcos regime."

The contested stake covers

LOPEZES/ A8

300 citizens push 2nd impeachment case vs GMA

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE PUSHED ahead yesterday with a planned second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, ignoring a move by her lawyers to block the effort in the House of Representatives.

Organizers said some 300 private individuals and groups had signed the complaint which would be filed on Monday.

During the launching of the "Citizen's Impeachment Case vs Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Nini Quezon-Avanceña said that the 300 individuals and groups who signed the complaint wanted the President to answer once and for all questions about her legitimacy, political killings and graft scandals.

"We feel that the only thing now that citizens can do is to give her a chance to explain these charges and give her her day in court because she is claiming that it is just the political opposition that is against her," said Quezon, 85, daughter of former President Manuel Quezon.

"Those of us who are sitting here do not belong to the political opposition," she said.

Quezon said the signatories would charge the President with culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust.

300 CITIZENS/ A8

Defense notes 'Nicole jeans, panties not torn, no seminal stains

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

DEFENSE LAWYERS IN THE Subic rape case yesterday focused on the lack of any tears—which could indicate a struggle—in the underwear and denim jeans that the complainant "Nicole" was wearing during the alleged crime.

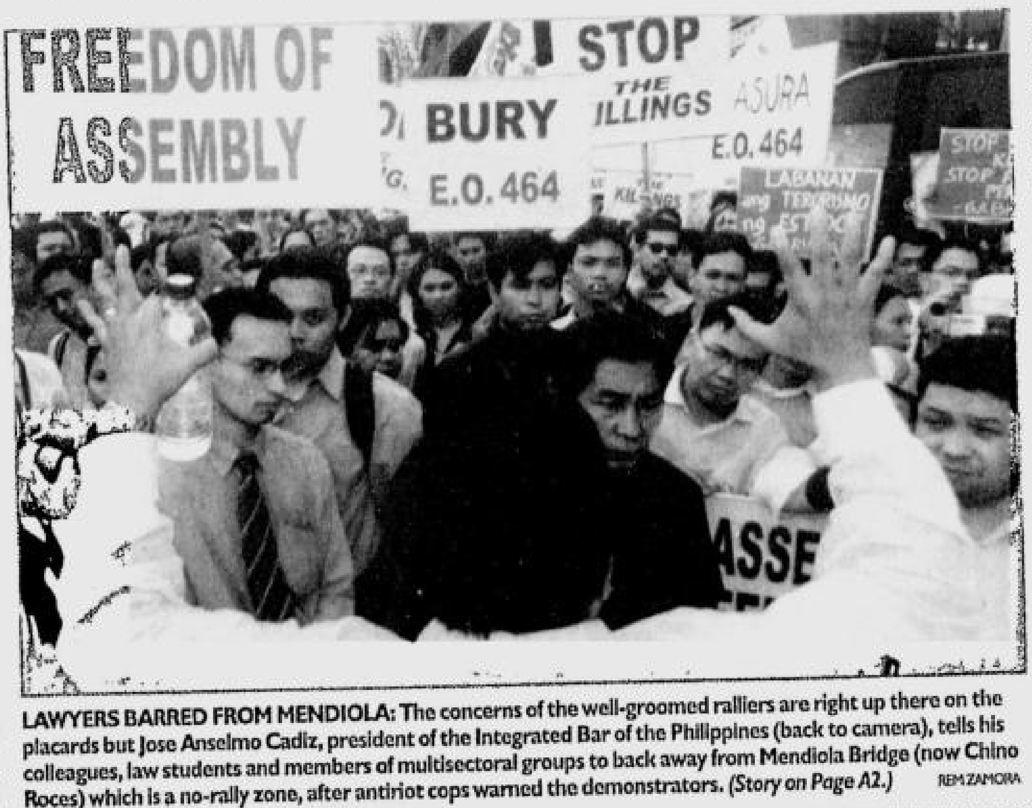
They also managed to note at the Makati Regional Trial Court hearing that these two articles of clothing had "no seminal stains" when examined by the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory.

The lawyers of the four accused US Marines used the tack in grilling the 15th prosecution witness, Melchor Delequina, the investigator who took photographs of the pieces of evidence at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's Intelligence and Investigation Office (IIO).

It was Delequina who took pictures of Nicole's panties, jeans, a used condom and its torn foil wrapper, a piece of medicine wrapper found inside the jeans, the Starex van where the alleged rape took place, and the trip ticket issued in hiring the van.

Prosecutors also presented Delequina to further disprove allegations made months before

DEFENSE/ A6



LAWYERS BARRED FROM MENDIOLA: The concerns of the well-groomed ralliers are right up there on the placards but Jose Anselmo Cadiz, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (back to camera), tells his colleagues, law students and members of multisectoral groups to back away from Mendiola Bridge (now Chino Roces) which is a no-rally zone, after antiriot cops warned the demonstrators. *(Story on Page A2.)* REM ZAMORA

91 nursing grads petition PRC to suspend nursing board

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—NINETY-ONE nursing graduates here petitioned the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) yesterday to place the members of the Board of Nursing "under preventive suspension" for test leaks that were allegedly distributed during the June 11 and 12 board examinations in the city.

The petitioners also asked the PRC to stop the release of the test results until it could determine how some examinees identified with the R.A. Gapuz Nursing Review Center obtained handwritten samples of the tests. The center is owned by Ray Gapuz.

Lawyer Cheryl Daytec-Yangot, sister-in-law of one of the complainants, Lilian Grace Yangot, asked the PRC to delay the scheduled July 2 release of the exam results to allow the commission "to re-compute the scores [by] disregarding the leaked questions."

The complainants said in an affidavit that examinees who benefited from the test leaks "did not author the irregularity and should not be punished."

But "it is [the complainants'] unshakeable position that between saving the integrity of the recent board examination and dispensing fairness to those who had no share of any drop of the leakage in the examination questions, the former is of more importance," they said.

Lawyer Yangot asked the PRC to suspend the board members because "the leakages could not have been perpetrated without the active participation or negligence [of any or all the] members."

Claiming that the irregularity had damaged the integrity of the

91 NURSING/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/06/22/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
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Second FRONTPAGE

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Cops raise Metro terror alert

POLICE RAISED THE SECURITY ALERT in Metro Manila early yesterday following intelligence reports that Moro rebels with suspected ties to foreign terrorists would try to stage bomb attacks in three urban centers around the country.

Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said his office had been getting "recurrent reports on new threats" from religious extremists allied to the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

He said the intelligence reports said the terrorists planned to attack shopping malls and transport systems in Metro Manila and the southern cities of Davao and Cebu.

A senior police intelligence official told Reuters authorities were worried because the reports filtering in contained "very specific" details about the bomb plot, such as the date, time and place of the targets.

"In the last few weeks, we have been getting consistent reports from various sources about a plot by Muslim rebels to simultaneously bomb three or four targets in the capital," he said.

Intelligence officials have focused on the Rajah Solaiman Revolutionary Movement, a small group of radical Muslim converts blamed for the series of bombings in Metro Manila since 2004, including the worst attack that killed over 100 people in a ferry explosion.

"Our latest information suggested a fresh plot to be carried out by new recruits," the intelligence official said, adding the Jemaah Islamiyah and its local partner, the Abu Sayyaf, may have provided funds for the planned attack.

Two of the group's leaders—Ahmad Islam Santos and Pio de Vera—were arrested last year in Zamboanga City, disrupting an alleged plot to detonate a truck bomb in Manila.

Nearly 20,000 policemen in Metro Manila were placed on heightened alert at dawn yesterday.

Querol said about 15 checkpoints had been set up around Metro Manila to guard critical public and private installations such as the oil depot, power, weather and communications stations and bus and train stations.

He said he had met with mall owners to seek their help in tightening security.

"They promised to help us ensure the safety of shoppers by beefing up the mall guards and installing extra security cameras," he told reporters.

When heightened alert is raised, malls usually redouble their security, increasing the number of guard dogs, even reducing the number of trash bins where bombs could be placed, he said.

Security has also been tightened around President Macapagal-Arroyo who travels around the country a lot.

Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, commander of the elite Presidential Security Group, said they were concerned about the increasing threats from local militant groups with suspected ties to the JI.

"There were consistent reports of bombings. We are very concerned because the President has been moving around," said Bangit.

He said the President's security had been beefed up not because of the renewed campaign against communist rebels but "because of the increasing threats of terrorism."

But he said the PSG was not recommending the cancellation of Ms Arroyo's scheduled provincial visits. The President is due to visit Davao City today to preside over the 3rd Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting there. *Luige del Puerto, Christine Avendaño and Reuters*

HON. AUGUSTO BOBO
HON. PATRICIA A. ST
BY: HON. AVE

DOLE TURNOVER. New Labor Secretary Arturo Brion (right) takes his oath before President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday. Outgoing Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas (left) moves to the chairmanship of the Development Bank of the Philippines. LYN RILLON

Mendiola still 'bridge too far' for lawyers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MANY OF THEM WERE IN *BARONG* Tagalog and some argued in learned language designed to win pleadings in judicial chambers. But still no dice—they could not set foot on ground the police had marked as forbidden.

Around 70 members of the Manila Police District blocked a group of 300 lawyers and law students from holding an indignation rally on Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang yesterday afternoon.

"We were merely enforcing the city's no permit, no rally policy," MPD's designated negotiator Supt. Arturo Paglinawan told reporters.

He also stressed that Mendiola had been designated a "no-rally zone."

Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) president Jose Anselmo Cadiz said that after half an hour of negotiating with the police, they relented and opted to hold their program along Recto Avenue in front of San Sebastian College.

"Although we still maintain that we have the right to hold activities on Mendiola Bridge, we respect the decision of the police because they were apparently only following orders from above," Cadiz said.

Cadiz said the IBP had filed a petition before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals questioning Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's decision to deny the group's application for a permit to rally in the area.

The Manila City government had allowed the group to hold a rally at Plaza Miranda, according to Cadiz. "The police were asking for a court resolution (which we cannot provide as of the moment)," Cadiz said.

Feliciano Bautista, IBP executive vice president, said the program was meant to explain to the public the "foolishness" of the administration's proposed amendments to the Constitution.

"Charter change will only give more power to President Macapagal-Arroyo," Bautista said. He added that the administration had been forcing people to sign in favor of Charter change in a people's initiative "without explaining what it really is."

Chanting "Never again (to martial law)" and holding placards denouncing the administration, the members of the IBP and other groups looked disappointed after their leaders agreed to hold the program on Recto Avenue.

"Mendiola is still a bridge too far," a lawyer said, shaking his head.

Relief of Marine officer normal, says his chief

By Dona Pazzibugan

MARINE COMMANDANT MAJ. GEN. NELSON Allaga yesterday downplayed the controversial resignation of his former chief of staff, Col. Orlando de Leon, who had earlier made stinging remarks directed at his superiors.

"The relief and reassignment of Colonel De Leon is a normal process in the military. It was my decision as the commandant to relieve him. He has served sufficient time competently. He has to move on," Allaga said, commenting on the issue for the first time since De Leon's June 15 resignation was made known Monday in a political opposition gathering.

Beyond the statement, Allaga offered no explanation for De Leon's relief.

He said De Leon's griping was his way of reacting to his relief.

"That happens. (But) that's how it is in the military organization. All you have to get is an order and a reassignment and then you go to your assignment," Allaga said.

He admitted De Leon's application to study abroad had been turned down by "higher headquarters," which insiders say was among the reasons De Leon felt unfairly treated by his superiors.

The military top brass also made light of De Leon's relief, insisting it did not indicate renewed restiveness in the ranks of the Marines after two camps figured in a bloodless but tense standoff on Feb. 26 over the relief of former Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

De Leon had also served as the chief of staff under Miranda, who along with Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, was linked to the Feb. 24 failed plot to withdraw military support from the President.

"It is immaterial whether he resigned or was relieved. Before this, the Marine commandant had opted to have a new chief of staff and that is within his prerogative," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said.

"I think General Allaga is in full control of the Marine Corps," he added.

Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, who was at the receiving end of De Leon's tirade, also tried to paper over the colonel's gripes.

"All I can say is things are quiet with the Navy and the Marines," he said. He added that he went jogging and had breakfast with Allaga and his men early Thursday.

Mayuga however said De Leon would be investigated for airing his dissatisfaction in public.

"General Allaga and I have talked. Maybe the aspect they will look into is whether he was the one who released the letter to the media," said Mayuga.

Asked whether De Leon would be subjected to disciplinary action, Allaga said, "I can't answer that for now."

But he said De Leon would be reassigned, probably to Zambales where he would be named head of the Naval Education and Training School.

In his resignation letter, De Leon said "many officers (would) rather suppress the truth to push some personal agenda."

He took a potshot at Mayuga, whose fact-finding panel recently cleared ranking generals allegedly involved in the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal.

"Survival, according to the most respected officer in command (Mayuga), is now the rule that governs the behavior of almost everybody in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I'm sorry, sir, but please don't count me in," De Leon said in his letter.

Mayuga refused to comment on De Leon's accusation. "I have not read his letter, if there is a letter," he said.

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Despite pending abolition, judge gives 7 death penalty

EVEN AS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is set to sign a law abolishing capital punishment, a Manila judge yesterday sentenced to death seven persons, including a woman, for the kidnapping of a Chinese boy and a housemaid seven years ago.

Sentenced to die by lethal injection for kidnapping for ransom and serious illegal detention were Tranquilino Martinez, Venancio Untalan, Christopher Baylon, Thea Po, Arcadio Marbit, Eduardo Delgado and Renato Corpuz.

Another accused, known only by the alias "Nestor" or "Begote," remains at large.

Judge Manuel Barrios said the sentence could be modified once the law abolishing the death penalty was approved.

Ms Arroyo, who had pushed for the abolition of the death penalty, said last week that she would sign the bill into law before she leaves this weekend on a visit to the Vatican and Spain.

Congress earlier approved a bill abolishing the death penalty despite protests from the relatives of crime victims, who accused the President of rushing to approve the bill to please the Pope.

In the Senate version of the bill, the ultimate penalty has been downgraded to *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment without parole.

The Manila judge also imposed an additional eight years' imprisonment on four of the accused—Martinez, Untalan, Baylon and Po—and ordered them to indemnify the victims a total of P13,000 after finding them guilty of robbery.

According to court records, Domingo Ong III and Josephine Andrada, then aged 12 and 38 years, respectively, were abducted from the Too Guan Tong Temple in Binondo, Manila, on March 16, 1999.

The day before, four of the accused—Martinez, Untalan, Baylon and Po—had entered the temple where the victim's father, Domingo Jr., worked as a treasurer and caretaker.

Once inside, the accused, all armed with knives and guns, hogtied the Ong family and their two maids, including Andrada, and took their cash and valuables.

The accused left at dawn, taking the young Ong and Andrada with them.

The younger Ong was rescued by police in Tambo, Parañaque, while Andrada was recovered from a house in Gen. Trias, Cavite. The gang initially asked for ransom of P10 million but reduced this to P150,000.

In his defense, Martinez, the leader of the group, told the court the abduction was part of a plan concocted by the victim's father and his siblings to extort money from the Too Guan Tong Association, which had funds allotted for ransom purposes. This was rejected by the court.

The judge said the response of the victim's father, which was to call Teresita Ang See, the anti-crime crusader, and report the incident to the authorities "reveal a mind set that is inconsistent with the conspiracy theory espoused by the defense."

The housemaid had claimed that Untalan had raped her. But the court said the victim was not able to testify in court to substantiate her claim.

The promulgation of the sentence was held at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa where Martinez is being held on another case. *Tina G. Santos*

Miriam files bill against abortionists

SEEKING TO PUT MORE TEETH into the constitutional ban on abortion, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has filed a bill that would impose severe penalties on doctors, midwives, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals found to have aided in aborting a fetus.

Santiago's bill also calls for giving immunity from prosecution to women who had undergone an abortion but who testify against abortionists.

The senator said abortion had become rampant in the country, aided by health professionals.

"These incidents have been administered by physicians, midwives, nurses and other health workers, complemented by the distribution, sale and dispensation by pharmacists of abortifacient devices," Santiago said.

She said the actions of these health professionals undermine the state's policy to safeguard the rights and well-being of the unborn child.

Senate Bill 1255 seeks to amend Article 259 of the Revised Penal Code and impose the maximum penalties against those who perform or abet an abortion.

The bill provides for the additional penalty of perpetual loss of license to practice by a doctor, midwife, nurse, health worker "who, taking advantage of their scientific knowledge or skill, shall cause an abortion or assist in causing the same."

The bill also seeks to strike out a provision in the code which provides penalty for "any pharmacist who without the proper prescription from a physician" dispenses a drug or device that causes abortion. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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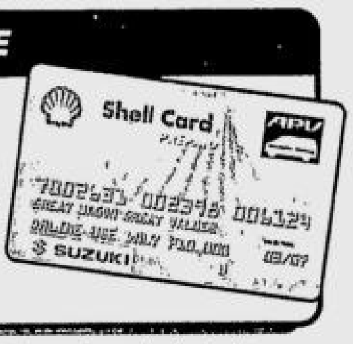

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Business to gov't: Protect us vs NPA

From page A1

beefed up the capacity of the military and police first before engaging the NPA in an all-out offensive.

"Not only civilians would be caught in the crossfire, even businesses are placed at risk," Concepcion said in a separate interview, adding that the government should have held public consultations before launching a total war on the NPA and their supposed coddlers.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., said the government should understand that businessmen were paying taxes to the NPA under duress. "No businessman will agree to double taxation if the government is strong enough to protect them," he told the INQUIRER.

According to military officials, the NPA's operational funds are raised mainly through extortion. Businessmen who refuse to pay often find their buildings attacked and equipment burned. The rebels also sometimes resort to murder, the officials said.

A top executive of a telecommunication firm, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the military and police did not have the capability to protect his company's facilities in far-flung provinces. The executive admitted his company was paying the NPA "a nine-figure amount every year to ensure that cell sites and other properties are left untouched."

Col. Gregorio Fajardo, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade based in Negros Occidental, said intelligence reports indicated that large telecommunication firms had been coursing their tax payments to the NPA through their head offices. "The negotiations appear to be made on a national level," he said.

Other military officials based on the islands of Cebu and Negros said that not only telecommunication firms but also sugar plantations and bus companies in the Visayas were paying revolutionary taxes.

Silent taxpayers

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., head of the Southern Luzon Command based in Lucena City, said many of the businesses in the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions were likewise contributing to the NPA coffers.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, spokesperson of the Central Command based in Cebu City, said he didn't know of any businesses paying revolutionary taxes in the Visayas that had sought the help of the authorities.

Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr., police chief of Quezon, reported a similar phenomenon in his province.

The INQUIRER interviewed a number of businessmen in Quezon province and they said they would continue paying taxes to the NPA.

"We can't afford to antagonize the NPA. It's too dangerous for business, to myself and also to my family. I don't want to take the risk," said one trader who requested that his identity and line of business be withheld.

"The money I give is within the means of my business. The amount is the result of several times of intense haggling between my representative and the NPA," the trader said in a phone interview.

"And I will continue paying that amount as long as my business is still making a profit. When I'm no longer making money, I will tell them 'no more,' that I could no longer continue paying. I could sense they will understand."

Demand letter

The lawyer of another business enterprise said his client recently received a "demand letter" from the NPA. After authenticating the letter, the lawyer negotiated with the NPA emissaries but they failed to agree on the amount of the revolutionary tax.

"During our last meeting last week, I was informed that my client is now included in their so-called 'penalty list,' meaning there is now a threat of corresponding punishment if we do not accede to their demand in the soonest time possible," the lawyer said.

"But definitely, my client is willing to pay for the sake of continuous unhampered business operations," he added.

This despite the warning of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that communities harboring communist guerrillas and businesses submitting to NPA extortion would face criminal charges as part of a crackdown against the Maoist rebellion.

Ermita also warned local officials and families against giving sanctuary to the 7,400-member NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines that has been waging a 37-year insurgency.

"Anyone who abets the insurgency, anyone who gives comfort to the enemy will be within the ambit of the counterinsurgency operations," Ermita said at a news conference.

The NPA rebels "live off the land and they depend on the assistance provided to them by their coddlers on the ground. So we have to address these particular coddlers," Ermita said.

Companies that paid "revolutionary taxes" could be charged even if rebels armed with guns had forced their staff to hand over the money. "Because they are giving aid and comfort to the enemy, they will be appropriately charged," Ermita said.

Double victims

But Director Vidal Querol, police chief of Metro Manila, said the government must distinguish between those who willingly aid the NPA and those who are coerced into doing so.

Going after the latter would make them "double victims," Querol said. "*Biktima na, ikukulong pa.*"

Senate President Franklin Drilon also said it was unfair of the government to throw the book at businessmen who were merely forced into forking over tax payments to the NPA.

"Certainly, these people would not want to pay revolutionary taxes but they cannot refuse to do so because government has failed to provide the necessary security in areas where the presence of government is virtually lacking," Drilon said.

"They are victims themselves. Therefore, they should be provided protection rather than be harassed," he added.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said Ermita seemed to be ignorant of the law.

"We are not in a state of war so they [businessmen paying revolutionary taxes] are, legally speaking, not liable under our Revised Penal Code," Pangilinan said, adding that giving aid and comfort to the enemy could only be a crime when a nation is at war with an external force.

GMA assurance

At the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, however, President Macapagal-Arroyo said sizeable military units would be detailed to guard businesses in rebel-influenced areas to help them resist the extortion by the NPA. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

NPA raid on mayor's residence taunts GMA

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—As though taunting President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, about 30 communist insurgents disguised as soldiers stormed the house of the mayor of Lasam, Cagayan, on Tuesday and made off with a number of firearms.

No one was hurt in the 15-minute raid on the house of Lasam Mayor Eulogio Agatep Jr. in Barangay Callao Sur, said Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon, spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division.

Galon said the insurgents seized five 12-gauge shotguns, an M-16 Armalite rifle, a sniper telescope and ammunition.

He said Lasam police in pursuit of the raiders had arrested two men and found two abandoned vehicles—a dump truck and a car—that might have been used in the guerrilla operation.

The arrested men were identified as Edwin Bilag, alias Ka Nelson, supposed platoon leader of the Sandatahang Yunit Pangpropaganda-Secom 1-Northern Front, and Danilo Bulusan.

In a statement sent to media offices, one Salvador del Pueblo, supposed spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Cagayan Valley, said the raid was conducted by the Henry Abraham Front of the New People's Army.

Del Pueblo said Agatep's house was serving as a base for the illegal numbers game "jueteng" and "the place where winning jueteng numbers are drawn."

He said the raiders, "who disguised themselves as Army soldiers," found no need to fire their guns because the people in the Agatep house, including the mayor's cousin, Jun Isaac Agatep, were taken by surprise.

But The Associated Press quoted Del Pueblo as denying that any of the raiders had been arrested.

Mayor Agatep, who survived an ambush last year that killed three of his relatives, could not be reached for comment.

Political suicide

On June 16, Ms Arroyo said P1 billion would be released to the military and police to boost an "all-out" offensive against the NPA, the 7,400-member armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Her chief of staff, Michael Defensor, was quoted as saying that the President wanted the 37-year-old insurgency wiped out in "critical areas" in one to two years. But other ranking officials, including Vice President Noli de Castro, subsequently countered that Defensor was using "wrong arithmetic."

In Tacloban City, Santiago Salas, spokesperson of the NDF in the Eastern Visayas, dismissed the one-to-two-year timetable set by Malacañang, saying it was the administration that might be "finished" by that time.

The NDF is the political arm of the CPP.

"[Setting that deadline] is in fact political suicide for Arroyo because her regime is enfeebled by a chronic economic crisis, a bankrupt treasury and restiveness among its own troops. She cannot even [provide] enough classrooms to schoolchildren, let alone boots to foot soldiers," Salas said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

"The revolutionary movement has prevailed over the past decades. It can certainly surmount the nonentity in Malacañang who is in mortal dread of falling because she is unable to prove her own legitimacy," he said.

Eastern Visayas, composed of the provinces of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar, has been identified as a region where the insurgency remains active.

Its governor, Ben Evardone, said that while he did not question the wisdom of the "all-out" offensive announced by the President, the development of the countryside should be given more focus as a way of ending the insurgency.

"The P1 billion set aside by our government must also have a component for the development of the rural areas and not just the armed component," Evardone said in an interview over dyDW radio.

He said the government should build roads, bridges, schools and other infrastructure in the rural areas to make the people know that there was still a government caring for them.

Lawyer Paquito Nacino, regional director of the Commission on Human Rights, said he supported the counterinsurgency campaign.

But he added: "The NPAs have their rights, too. My only concern with this all-out war is for the members of the military to always observe the rules on engagement during their operations."

Changing deadline

The back-and-forth on the deadline to finish off the insurgency continued yesterday, with the military reckoning that Ms Arroyo had given the Armed Forces the next four years to rout the NPA.

"It was Secretary Mike Defensor who mentioned the two years. But what I understand from the President is that she wants the insurgency problem finished before her term ends [in 2010]. The President has been saying that ever since," said Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP chief of staff.

Senga spoke with reporters after the ceremonial send-off of three additional battalions to insurgent hotbeds in Central and Southern Luzon.

He admitted that the AFP had no new counterinsurgency strategy, and that it would just "intensify the execution of the 'oplans' that we already have."

"It will be the usual combination of intelligence operations, combat operations and civil military operations in cooperation with the other agencies of government and the general populace," he said.

Apart from the three battalions composed of about 1,500 troops pulled out of Mindanao, the military is considering the deployment of 3,000 more soldiers to do battle with NPA guerrillas.

These 3,000 troops are to be taken from the security detail of government officials and VIPs.

Defensor had said Ms Arroyo found the defense department's timetable of "six to 10 years" too long.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. later acceded to the "short-term" deadline of two years for critical areas in Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and Sorsogon province, but he stuck to his original timetable of six to 10 years.

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, assailed the buildup of troops in certain regions of Luzon.

"The massive troop buildup and deployment in Southern Luzon is the prelude to more human rights violations, extrajudicial killings, indiscriminate bombings and strafing of civilian populations," Reyes said.

He said it was in Central Luzon where a number of assassinations of unarmed members of militant groups believed to be CPP-NPA fronts had taken place.

Reyes warned of the large-scale dislocation of civilians because of the expected increase in military operations.

"In Sorsogon, people will be displaced by an exploding volcano—a natural disaster. In Quezon and similar provinces, people will be displaced by tanks and marching troops—a terrible man-made disaster," he said.

Reyes also criticized Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno for suggesting that the Philippine National Police get actively involved in the offensive.

"Maybe the PNP wants to get its hands on part of the P1-billion funding for the counterinsurgency drive," he said, adding:

"The AFP's human rights record is bad enough. Why would we allow the PNP, whose rights record is as bad, to join the all-out war?"

Corrupt government

Another member of the influential Roman Catholic hierarchy voiced concern over the offensive, saying a "corrupt government" was at the root of the insurgency.

"The NPAs are not creating the situation for insurgency," Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles told reporters. "It's the corrupt government and its collaboration with foreign and local capital to disenfranchise the poor."

Arguelles, the prelate formerly in charge of police and military chaplains, called on the administration to spend on livelihood development and education the promised P2-billion allocation for the anticommunist drive and a new anticorruption campaign.

He said such a move would eventually render the NPA "academic."

"There's an NPA because the [poor] have nowhere to run to," Arguelles said. "Instead of the government defending them, what happens is they feel that the enemy is the government and the military." *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria*

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I
Wag mong dibdibin
Mga problema mo
Isipin mong ito
Ay kayang-kaya mo
Tulad ko, tulad mo
Kaya nating lahat ito
Sabayan niyo ako, sama-sama tayo

CHORUS 1
Tayo nang magkantahan,
Habang nagsasayawan
Problema'y malilimutan,
Ito ang ating kailangan:
XTREME XTREME MAGIC SING!

II
Tayo'y magsaya,
Kalimutan muna ang problema
Magkantahan tayo
Kahit hanggang umaga
Si tatay, si nanay, si ate at si kuya
Kasama ang lahat ng buong pamilya

(Repeat Chorus 1)
(Bridge: Instrumental)
(Repeat II)

CHORUS 2
Iba ang XTREME MAGIC SING,
Lalo akong gumagaling
Champion din sa kantahan,
Hindi lamang sa boxing
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Other housing sites OK, say ex-Nawasa employees

AFTER MONTHS OF WRANGLING, RETIRED employees of the defunct National Waterworks and Sewerage Administration (Nawasa) and an environment coalition are inching closer to a settlement over a controversial housing project inside the La Mesa Dam watershed.

In a sign of a breakthrough, the leader of the 1,411 housing beneficiaries yesterday indicated that his group was open to relocating their 58-hectare housing project from the watershed to an alternative site in Quezon City.

"If they can provide a site for us in the Quezon City area, I will not object," Genaro Bautista, president of the Kaisahan at Kapatiran ng mga Manggagawa at Kawani sa Nawasa, told a joint Senate-House inquiry into the impact of the housing unit on the environment.

But he lamented that the group of retirees had thrice been asked to relocate to different areas over the past three decades.

Bautista's statement elicited a smile from Gina Lopez of Bantay-Kalikasan, part of the Save the La Mesa Dam coalition opposing the housing project, and cheers from Sen. Pia Cayetano, who cochaired the hearing with Manila Rep. Miles Roces.

Cayetano told a press briefing afterward that there was a "potential solution" to the problem.

She said the burden of finding a new relocation site now lay with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the successor agency of Nawasa.

Environmentalists who organized themselves into the Save La Mesa Dam coalition protested the housing project because of its location within the critical area of the watershed. They warned that since it lay 24 meters above the dam's water level, the housing project's wastes would flow down and seep into the reservoir.

The 2,700-hectare watershed is the source of water for Metro Manila's 12 million residents.

Media reports of the ongoing construction of some 120 houses for MWSS executives in a three-hectare area on the other side of the lake also prompted similar protests. *TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 23, 2006
Sacred Heart of Jesus

1st Reading:	Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8-9
2nd Reading:	Eph 3:8-12, 14-19
Gospel:	John 19:31-37

As it was Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross during the Sabbath, for this Sabbath was a very solemn day.

They asked Pilate to have the legs of the condemned men broken, so they might take away the bodies.

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who had been crucified with Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead; so they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a lance and immediately there came out blood and water.

The one who has seen here gives his witness so that you may believe: his witness is true and He knows that he speaks the truth. All this happened to fulfill the words of Scripture, Not one of his bones shall be broken. Another text says: They shall look on him whom they have pierced.

Commentary

In the days after Pentecost we celebrate the deep mysteries of our God that are to sustain us all through Ordinary Time. Today we look at the love of God for us in Jesus' Spirit and Body. It has been there since the beginning but we are slow to see, understand and accept it. We are children held in arms, taught to walk, held in human cords, bands of love like an infant held to a cheek in tenderness. God is overwhelmed with love for us and so gives us Jesus, the Holy One always present among us, love burning yet not consuming us. It is love given in life and in death and in resurrection life—no end to its depth, breadth. We dwell in the heart of our God, with Jesus crucified, risen and sent in his Spirit. We live in the Trinity.

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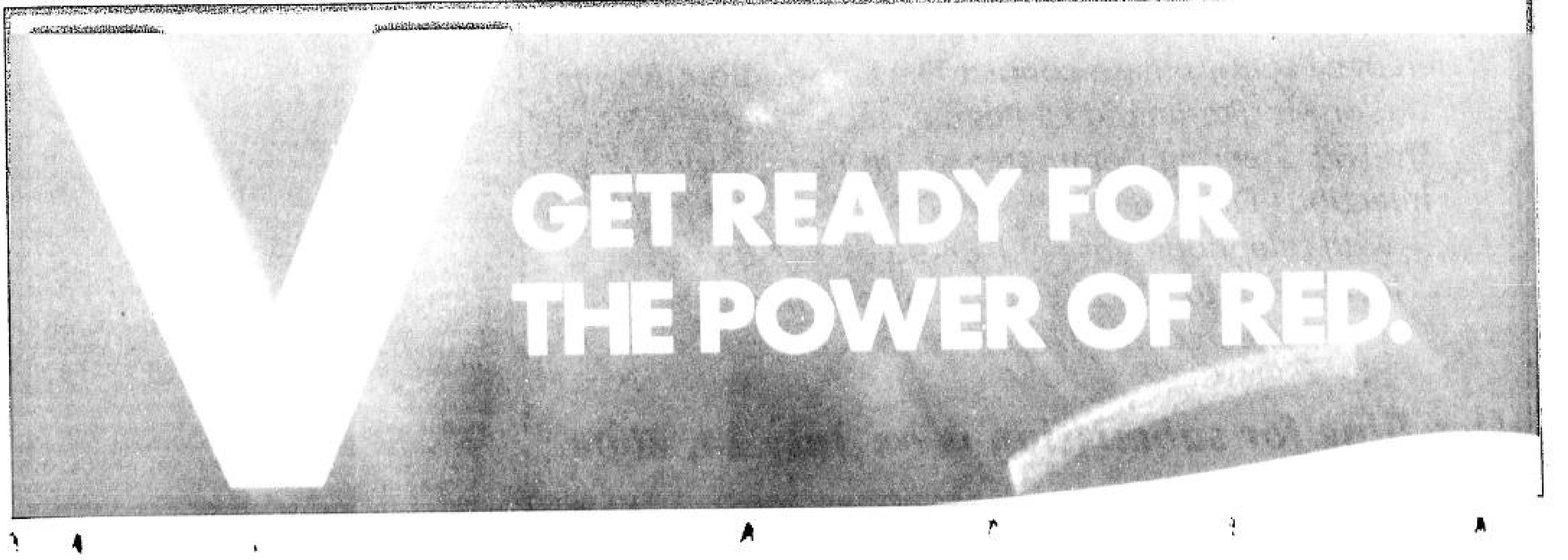

Defense notes 'Nicole jeans, panties not torn

From page A1

the trial by the van's Filipino driver, Timoteo Soriano, that IIO Intelligence Division chief Paquito Torres (Delequina's boss) had coerced him into mentioning "gang rape" in the statement he executed on Nov. 2, 2005, just hours after the alleged crime.

Nicole was not present at the hearing, the first time she missed a court date. Her lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, said she was resting.

The prosecution panel is expected to call to the stand today two members of Nicole's family—a stepsister who was with her at Subic at the time of the alleged rape, and an elder brother.

Admissions

Francisco Rodrigo, counsel for S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier, made Delequina admit that when he photographed Nicole's panties and denim jeans, he did not see any tears on either.

That both pieces of clothing apparently had "no stains" when taken off the woman was another admission drawn from the witness, this time by his colleague Benjamin Formoso, counsel for Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

But it was toward the end of the hearing that Rodrigo read out the PNP crime lab report saying that no stains of semen were found on the clothes.

This was during an exchange on whether there was still a need to call in the expert who had conducted the tests. Otherwise, it was proposed, both sides could just stipulate (or agree) on the report.

The prosecutors said they might have a problem producing such a witness on the matter because the PNP official concerned had gone to the United States on vacation.

The examination was conducted by a medico-legal officer, Chief Insp. Mamerto Bernabe Jr.

Rodrigo was actually daring the prosecution to stipulate on the "no stains" finding, but the prosecutors refused.

Close to 2 hours

The defense lawyers kept the IIO's Ramon Paje on the witness stand for close to two hours as they attacked both his proficiency in English and investigative skills during cross-examination.

But Paje endured the ordeal and answered every question.

Paje was the IIO officer who translated *"lasing na lasing* (very drunk)" to mean "hardly intoxicated" in describing Nicole in his investigation report.

He saw the complainant in such a condition when he first met her at the IIO office shortly after the alleged rape.

"Mr. Witness, when I say 'I could hardly see you,' would you agree that in Filipino, that means *'Hindi kita masyadong makita'* or *'Bahagya lamang kitang nakikita'*?" said lawyer Jose Justiniano, counsel for Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood.

Justiniano was testing how the witness understood the term "hardly" in light of his misuse of the adverb in translating *"lasing na lasing."*

Hot on the issue

The defense panel had been hot on the mistranslation, believing that Paje in fact meant that Nicole was barely drunk when she was seen minutes after the alleged rape.

If proven, this would derail the prosecution's line of offense that the complainant was too drunk to have consented to sex.

Nicole had alleged that on Nov. 1 last year, Smith raped her while she was barely conscious at the back of a Starex van cruising the Subic Bay Freeport, as Silkwood, Carpentier and Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis egged him on.

"That could be what it means, sir," said Paje, who testified in Filipino and was assisted by an interpreter throughout his testimony.

"OK. How about if I say 'I could hardly hear you,' would you agree that in Filipino, that means *'Hindi kita masyadong marinig'* or *'Bahagya lamang kitang naririnig'*?" continued Justiniano.

This time, State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez rose to address Makati RTC Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon: "Your Honor, we have to object to this line of questioning on the basis of lack of materiality."

Justiniano countered that he was "testing the accuracy of the witness."

'Di ganong kagaling'

The defense lawyer won the court's favor and was allowed to go on. But Paje gave him the rebuff.

"Di ako ganong kagaling, as I have already told you, sir," Paje said in a mix of Filipino and English, raising both arms to emphasize his point.

The courtroom audience laughed at the exchange.

Justiniano had earlier inquired into the investigator's educational attainment.

"I finished tertiary school at the Ramon Magsaysay University, sir," Paje said.

"So you said you finished third year college..." Justiniano said, trailing off.

Prosecutors clarified to him that "tertiary" meant college.

Justiniano also asked Paje to affirm if he had understood the English terms he used in his report, including the words "Caucasian," "assaulted" and "bar-hopping."

Rodrigo questioned Paje's handling of evidence, including Nicole's jeans and panties, and the condom purportedly used by Smith in the alleged rape.

He had testified that Nicole, with the assistance of IIO evidence custodian Genevieve Puno, turned over the jeans and panties, and that he received the used condom from SBMA Law Enforcement Division bike patrol officer Jaime Avila Jr., who retrieved it from the parking lot at Subic's Alava Pier where the servicemen had allegedly dumped Nicole.

"Did you examine the jeans and pants? Did you notice any tear in the panties or jeans? Were they in a container? Did it not occur to you as an investigator to look at the condition of very important pieces of evidence?" Rodrigo asked Paje in quick succession.

"To preserve the evidence and prevent contaminating them, I did not look at them," said Paje, who testified that he received Nicole's clothes in a brown paper bag.

Soriano's statement

Under direct examination by private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua, Delequina said he and several other persons were present in Torres's office when Soriano was questioned about the alleged rape.

The questioning lasted from 11 p.m. of Nov. 2 to around 1 a.m. of the next day.

Going in and out of the room at the time were SBMA Director JV Magsaysay and his wife, Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay, two agents of the US Naval Criminal Investigation Service, and another SBMA investigator identified as Villaluz.

Delequina said Soriano signed his statement "willingly" in the presence of these people.

Before Soriano affixed his signature, Torres made him read the statement again and asked him aloud if he was willing to sign, Delequina said.

The witness noted that the interview dragged on for two hours because Soriano "took long pauses" and appeared to give much thought to each question posed by Torres.

Five months after that session, Soriano publicly recanted his statement, first in media interviews, and later in an affidavit submitted during the preliminary investigation of the case.

He claimed then that Torres had punched him twice to force him to mention "gang rape" in his original statement.

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DOH to ban state-scholar MDs from becoming nurses

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS PLANNING to bar medical students on scholarship in state universities and colleges from shifting to nursing upon their graduation.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said he would consider adding a provision to the contracts of medical students on government scholarship that would spell out the prohibition.

"We'd look at the legality of that," Duque said in an interview in Malacañang.

He said he also favored requiring each doctor who graduated from medical school to work in the country for two years for every year he received a subsidized tuition.

Duque was in Malacañang for the launching of the "Bagong Doktor Para Sa Bayan," a scholarship program of the First Gentleman Foundation and the Department of Health. *(Story on Page A1)*

The program will provide tuition, uniforms, equipment, board and lodging, and board exam fees (plus allowances during their internship) to 20 medical students at the University of the Philippines-College of Medicine and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Duque said the program was patterned after the DOH's Doctors to the Barrios, a brainchild of Sen. Juan Flavier, a former health secretary, who graced the event. Doctors to the Barrios deploys physicians to far-flung areas of the country.

Duque said the government could no longer afford to lose medical doctors to high-paying nursing jobs overseas because of the acute shortage of physicians in the country.

"The ideal should be one doctor for every 10,000 [people] but what we have now is one is to 60,000, especially in the barrios," he said.

Duque said the government would just be wasting funds if most of the medical graduates who had been given scholarships left the country.

Filipino doctors, lured by high pay in the United States and Europe, are leaving in droves not to work as physicians but as nurses.

This trend was highlighted when 2004 medical board topnotcher Dr. Elmer Jacinto decided to work as a registered nurse in a New York hospital instead of practicing his profession in the Philippines.

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91 nursing grads petition...

From page A1

nursing board, the lawyer proposed that an independent fact-finding committee be formed to determine the liability of each board member, and to compute the test results.

Blacklist review center

The complainants also wanted the PRC to "blacklist" RA Gapuz Review Center, which boasted a 98 percent passing rate in previous examinations.

"We would like to assure everyone that if indeed there is any truth to any leakage, the RA Gapuz Review Center absolutely had no participation and would not countenance any such act," said Roderick Salazar III, counsel of the review center.

Salazar said Gapuz had yet to receive a copy of the complaint.

Lawyer Yangot said the review center was included in the complaint because photocopies of samples of the tests were distributed to examinees wearing uniform jackets that bore the RA Gapuz logo.

A copy of an 18-page document, which was obtained by the INQUIRER, was labeled "psychiatric mental health nursing," and was composed of handwritten notes detailing standard medical textbook facts. Some of the notations bore spelling errors.

The INQUIRER traced the copies to a commercial photocopying shop beside a university, but employees there could not confirm whether the person who had ordered 2,800 copies of the document worked for the Gapuz Review Center. *With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

"The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)
of the Philippines is calling for the
submission of proposals for the conduct of the
3rd National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey (NPS)
in line with the
National TB Program (NTP) of the Philippines
through the assistance of the Global Fund (GFATM)."

For interested parties and for a copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR), please contact Dr. Ernesto Bontuyan Jr and/or Mr. Ferdinand La Puebla, secretariat of the 3rd NPS Steering Committee at 4th Floor, Bldg.13 Infectious Disease Office, NCDPC, DOH, Manila with telephone nos. 711-68-08 or 743-83-01 local 2350 to 2352. You can also e-mail us at steercom2007nps@yahoo.com

Deadline for submission is on July 24, 2006.

GMA rushed to hospital

From page A1

left at around 10:30 p.m. but returned later. Some family members stayed with Ms Arroyo.

"Indefinite on how long she will stay here. Canceled *pa lang yung* Davao *pero yung* Spain trip *hindi pa alam,*" Defensor said. "This is indefinite." (Her Davao trip is cancelled but as to the one to Spain we don't know yet.) The President had scheduled a Cabinet meeting today in Davao. She is set to leave for Spain on Saturday.

Asked if Ms Arroyo was vomiting, Defensor said he did not know but sources at the hospital said the President was throwing up.

Ms Arroyo was at the dinner at the Osteria restaurant owned by actress Ara Mina when she was taken ill. The actress was reportedly at the restaurant at the time.

Defensor said the President just had a salad at the restaurant and he was not aware if she had oysters, the restaurant's specialty. Her last meal before that was a luncheon at the Palace during an affair of the Presidential Management Staff.

An aide to the President who did not want to be identified because she was not authorized to talk to the media said Ms Arroyo was suffering from fatigue. Doctors at St. Luke's who likewise did not want to be identified said she might have suffered acute gastroenteritis caused by food poisoning.

Defensor said the President would be confined while doctors ran tests. She was placed in a fourth floor suite because the presidential suite was reportedly occupied by newspaper publisher Max Soliven while the ambassadorial suite was occupied by San Miguel Corp. top honcho Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Later, Defensor said the President was asleep and was not connected to any intravenous tubes. He said the First Gentleman would remain with her overnight.

As to the possibility of food poisoning, Defensor said, "We have not yet ruled that out because we're still waiting for the medical bulletin."

As news of the President's confinement spread, Metro Manila police chief Director Vidal Querol announced the raising of the police alert level to full alert as standard operating procedure.

As to whether the President had suffered food poisoning, Querol said, "That's a legitimate question but we're not ready to address that."

Power spot mart starts run today

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LONG WAIT IS FINALLY OVER.

After several postponements, the wholesale electricity spot market (Wesm) will start its commercial run today, providing a more transparent way of buying and selling electricity.

To make Wesm understandable to the man on the street, Lasse Holopainen, president of Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), likened the electricity bourse to a fish market, where several vendors sell the same wares but at different prices.

The big difference lies in the nature of the commodity. Power cannot be stored for sale the next day or even the next hour.

Also, as with the current non-spot market setup, end-users will not know from which generator the power that they consume will come from.

Because of these factors, Wesm uses the "pool" concept in which all the electricity produced by generation firms will be centrally coordinated. They then compete to be dispatched the soonest, based on how much they price the power that they produce.

Generation firms, including National Power Corp. and various independent power producers, go to the market to sell the power that they generate.

The trading is done every hour on the Internet, which means that electricity prices will vary, depending on the time of day.

For generators, a lower bid means better assurance of being dispatched to meet real-time power demand.

But having an electricity spot market does not mean that end-users can just choose to consume the lowest priced electricity in the market.

As of now, entities that can buy directly from the market include distribution utilities, electric cooperatives (when Wesm's Visayas commercial operation starts) and bulk power users.

The immediate benefit of Wesm is not exactly lower power rates at the end-user level but a transparent and competitive electricity market for the country, according to Holopainen.

Wesm's website says the electricity bourse "is designed to encourage competition in generation, while at the same time providing incentives for the effective operation and development of the transmission networks, coupled with locational price signals to encourage economically correct geographic placement of any future planned generation."

In layman's term, Wesm seeks to take down the monopolies in generating and selling electricity.

With competition, generators are expected to beef up their operations—reduce costs, align tariffs with their expenses, and use their assets more efficiently—to enable them to take advantage of efficiency gains.

Wesm will also provide "price signals" that will serve as a guide for future investments.

For example, investors will no longer have to guess where to establish new plants as locational price signals will give them a clue as to where new capacities should be placed (mainly in places where prices are high due to supply-demand imbalances).

Masinloc sale above-board, says energy chief

DESPITE BEING BOMBARDED WITH CORruption accusations, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla is resolute in defending the sale of the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, saying the transaction was completely aboveboard and not disadvantageous to the government.

The auction of the Masinloc plant was "transparent and fully in accordance with law," Lotilla said in a text message sent late Wednesday in reaction to graft charges filed with the Office of the Ombudsman earlier that day by the Bagong Alyansa Makabayan.

"The price was a good one and the interest of government remains fully protected as the plant continues to be operated and generates income for [the National Power Corp.], and will be transferred only once the down payment is made," he said.

Lotilla clarified that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the agency tasked to dispose of Napocor's assets, was still holding on to the $11-million performance bond put up by the YNN Pacific Consortium, a joint venture between Filipino firm YNN Holdings and the Australian-based Great Pacific Financial Group, that won the bid for the plant.

He said the performance bond was even increased to $14 million when Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill came into the picture as a new investor. Ranhill recently bought out its partners in YNN Pacific for $8 million.

Bayan filed graft charges against PSALM officials, including the Cabinet secretaries who sat in the PSALM board.

Apart from Lotilla, also named as respondents were Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, PSALM president Nieves Osorio and vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco. *Abigail L. Ho and TJ Burgonio*

INT'L SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS
Raymund Joseph Amurao of Marikina Science High School presents his award-winning project, "Biofuel from Janitor Fish" to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair winners' courtesy call at Malacañang yesterday. With them are Intel Technology Philippines Inc. officials (from left) Arlita Narag, Tymen DeJong and Teresa Pacis, sponsor of the competition, and Dr. Estrella Alabastro, science and technology secretary.

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300 citizens push 2nd impeachment …

From page A1

The particulars include allegations she attempted to exercise dictatorial powers, crimes against humanity in connection with killings of political activists and journalists and graft and corruption.

The complainants will hold a vigil, dubbed "Bantay Batasan," at the House of Representatives starting on Sunday until Monday morning to ensure that they would be able to file the complaint ahead of anyone else.

Other citizen complainants include National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, artist Leah Navarro, former Transportation and Communication Undersecretary Josie Lichauco, former Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Vicky Avena, former Commission on Human Rights Commissioner Nasser Marohomsalic, University of the Philippines professor Randy David and civic workers Maria Feria and Marietta Goco.

Monday marks the end of the one-year prohibition against the filing of a new impeachment case against the President. The Constitution bans multiple impeachment cases in a single year.

The President's allies in Congress killed an attempt last year to unseat Ms Arroyo over allegations she rigged the May 2004 election.

But Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez on Sept. 23, 2005, had questioned before the Supreme Court the manner by which the House majority dismissed the impeachment complaint.

Ms Arroyo's lawyers, Romulo Macalintal and Alberto Agra, yesterday told the House it could not entertain a new complaint until the high tribunal had settled Martinez's petition.

SC urged to rule

At the launching yesterday of the citizen's initiative at Club Filipino in San Juan, lawyer Harry Roque called on the Supreme Court to issue an immediate ruling on Martinez's petition.

"My humble prayer to the Supreme Court is now to give us guidance," said Roque, who is also Martinez's lawyer. "Until the court resolves this issue, we will always have this absurd situation of having … a race among rats."

Roque was referring to the move to stop lawyer Oliver Lozano from preempting this new initiative to oust Ms Arroyo. Lozano was a leader of a movement to return the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to power after he was ousted in 1986. He has since been involved in high-profile political cases.

Last year, Lozano beat the opposition to the punch in filing an impeachment case against Ms Arroyo during the widespread clamor for her resignation over allegations of election fraud and corruption.

The President's allies threw out a subsequent opposition impeachment complaint and considered the Lozano petition valid. Because they said it was weak and lacked substance, the Lozano petition was later thrown out.

PREEMPTING impeachment moves expected on Monday, President Arroyo's lawyers Romulo Macalintal (left) and Alberto Agra show copies of their manifestation on the application of the one-year ban on filing of an impeachment complaint against a president. JOAN BONDOC

No legal basis

Roque said the claim of Macalintal and Agra was "wrong and bereft of any legal basis."

"We recognize that the decision of the House of Representatives dismissing the amended impeachment complaint is final. However, we are still going to the Supreme Court precisely not to reverse but to nullify that decision of the House of Representatives on the grounds that there was grave abuse of discretion," he said.

"So, it is not true that the first impeachment complaint is still alive. It is dead. And our only hope in fact is that the decision which killed it will be annulled by the Supreme Court," Roque said.

In their four-page letter to House Speaker Jose de Venecia, Macalintal and Agra said any impeachment proceedings at this time would be "premature until such time that the Supreme Court has acted with finality on the Martinez petition."

They noted that Martinez's petition "expressly prays" that last year's complaint be remanded to the House so that it could determine if the complaint is sufficient in form and substance.

"Hence, the one-year period wherein no new impeachment proceedings could be initiated has not lapsed. Only after the Supreme Court has made a final determination of the propriety of the impeachment complaint … can the House of Representatives consider and hear another complaint," Macalintal said.

'Waste of time'

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay dismissed the new opposition initiative as "pure show and a waste of time."

"We just hope the opposition this year will ensure that their complaint conforms to the legal requirements of form and substance, otherwise they're just posturing," he said.

Pichay said "the question now is whether the first impeachment complaint is dead or not" because the Supreme Court had yet to resolve Martinez's petition.

Pichay said he also found the charges being raised by the opposition against the President -- like her declaration of a state of national emergency in February and stopping officials from testifying in congressional hearings -- as "weak and baseless."

He said the President's acts did not constitute impeachable offenses because these were done in good faith.

Pichay also said that the "perennial lack of endorsers will also render the new impeachment case a failure." He pointed out that no less than Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had advised the House opposition against filing complaint without 79 signatures.

The opposition controls only 39 seats in the House.

What Went Before

ON APRIL 15, 1986, the newly organized Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), sequestered 6.3 million common shares owned by Trans Middle East (Phil.) Equities (TMEE) in the then Philippine Commercial International Bank (PCIBank), now Equitable PCI Bank.

The PCGG alleged that the shares were ill-gotten because these were actually controlled by Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, the brother-in-law of President Ferdinand Marcos.

The shares were said to have been bought by TMEE and Edilberto S. Narciso Jr. who served as the "dummy buyers" for Romualdez with "no or negligible 'cash out.'"

When the PCGG filed Civil Case No. 0035 on July 31, 1987 against Romualdez, Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Juliette Romualdez and 46 others, before the Sandiganbayan, it asked for the "return, reconveyance, accounting and restitution"—with damages—of certain funds and assets allegedly acquired through "abuse of right and power and through unjust enrichment."

These assets included shares in Meralco, PLDT, the Times Journal, Palm Avenue Realty, TMEE and PCI Bank.

On Dec. 28, 1988, the Lopez-owned First Philippine Holdings Corp. (formerly Meralco Securities Corp.) filed a motion to intervene in Civil Case No. 0035. The holding firm alleged that the PCIBank shares were obtained from the Lopezes "by means of fraud" and thus, the deed of "sale of stocks and escrow agreement" dated May 24, 1984 was either void, voidable or could not be enforced.

Money borrowed from PCI

FPHC said the purchase price of P47.2 million was very low because the book value of the shares at the time of the sale was P104.8 million. To pay for the purchase price, TMEE borrowed the same amount from Soloil, alleged to be another Romualdez front which, in turn, borrowed the same amount from PCIBank.

Since then, while the ownership issue remains unresolved, the courts had to rule on questions on who will vote and how the contested shares are to be handled.

In 1995, the Supreme Court upheld a cease-and-desist order on the voting of the contested shares although it allowed the Sandiganbayan to exercise its discretion if the shares may be voted by the Romualdezes.

In 2003, the Sandiganbayan ruled that the TMEE shares can be voted by the Romualdezes, saying that only one PCGG commissioner signed the sequestration order, a violation of the commission's rules and regulations.

But the antigraft court ordered that the shares be deposited in escrow based on TMEE's manifestation that it was willing to have these placed in an escrow account to allay fears of dissipation, loss or wastage.

TRO

Last May 9, the PCGG filed an urgent motion asking that the graft court re-enforce the TRO issued by the Supreme Court in 1995.

A day before the bank's annual stockholders' meeting on May 23, the Sandiganbayan said the TRO remained in effect, thus, disqualifying TMEE from voting its shares.

But on June 9 the Supreme Court reversed the antigraft court's decision that barred TMEE from voting its shares in Equitable PCI Bank during the bank's annual stockholders' meeting last month.

The high court declared the results of the stockholders' meeting invalid. The court also directed the board of Equitable PCI Bank and the bank's corporate secretary to recognize the nominee of TMEE as a duly elected member of the board in place of the person who was elected during the recent stockholders' meeting.

TMEE is entitled to only one seat on the 15-member board.

Romualdez took P138-M

In a recent Newsbreak magazine report, it was said that when Kokoy's son, Martin, was board chair of the bank in 2005, the Romualdezes withdrew about P138 million from the Trust Banking Group of Equitable PCIBank.

The bank allowed the withdrawal because Pelagio Ricalde, corporate secretary of Equitable's Trust Banking Group, interpreted a ruling by the Sandiganbayan to mean that only the contested shares of stock were to remain in escrow and not the cash and the dividends.

While that Sandiganbayan ruling did not order the return of TMEE stocks, it ruled that the shares, "including the interests earned, thereon be deposited with the Land Bank of the Philippines in escrow for the persons, natural or judicial, who shall eventually be adjudged lawfully entitled thereto."

The Romualdezes were once the biggest shareholder in the PCI Bank. The family's patriarch allegedly acquired the majority shares by pressuring the Lopez family, which then partly owned the bank, to give up the shares. *Minerva Generalao and Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research*

SC upholds 'live-in' setup if approved …

From page A1

excuse to enter into illegal and immoral conjugal unions.

"The majority opinion will make every religion a separate republic, making religion a haven for criminal conduct that otherwise would be punishable under the laws of the land. Today concubinage, tomorrow bigamy, will enjoy protection from criminal sanction under the new doctrine foisted by the majority opinion," said Associate Justice Antonio Carpio in an 18-page dissenting opinion.

He cited US jurisprudence in warning that such a sweeping decision would "make the professed doctrines of religious belief superior to the law of the land" and, in effect, "permit every citizen to become a law unto himself."

"This case is about a religious cover for an obviously criminal act," the dissenters said.

The issue stemmed from a complaint filed against Soledad Escritor, a court interpreter and member of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watch Tower and Bible Tract Society, for committing a "disgraceful and immoral act" by living with Luciano Quilapio Jr. sans marriage and having a child by him.

Immoral act

The complaint was filed on July 27, 2000, by Alejandro Estrada in a Las Piñas court, claiming that such a union constituted an "immoral act that tarnished the image of the court."

In her defense, Escritor argued that their "conjugal arrangement is in conformity with their religious beliefs and has the approval of her congregation," the high court said in the 63-page ruling penned by Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno.

In fact, Escritor claimed that after 10 years in such a conjugal union, she and her husband executed on July 28, 1991, a "Declaration of Pledging Faithfulness," which "allows members of the congregation who have been abandoned by their spouses to enter into marital relations."

"The declaration thus makes the resulting union moral and binding within the congregation all over the world except in countries where divorce is allowed," the court said.

Elders approve union

Escritor said the union was approved by the "elders of the congregation" after confirming that her husband had left her.

In her religion's eyes, "there is nothing immoral about the conjugal arrangement between Escritor and Quilapio and they remain members in good standing in the congregation," the court said.

The high court upheld Escritor's right to her conjugal union as it chose to adhere to the "benevolent neutrality approach that gives room for accommodation of religious exercises as required by the Free Exercise Clause."

"Thus, we find that in this particular case and under these distinct circumstances, respondent Escritor's conjugal arrangement cannot be penalized as she has made out a case for exemption from the law based on her fundamental right to freedom of religion," the court said.

Religious freedom

"The court recognizes that state interest must be upheld in order that freedoms—including religious freedom—may be enjoyed," the court said.

But in her own separate opinion, Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago sought the suspension of Escritor for six months for her disgraceful conduct in court.

"The exacting standards of ethics and morality imposed upon court judges and court employees are required to maintain the people's faith in the court as a dispenser of justice, and whose image is mirrored by their actuations," she said.

"The high degree of moral uprightness is demanded of employees of the government [and] entails many sacrifices that are peculiar to the civil service," she added.

Apart from Puno, those who voted for the resolution were Associate Justices Leonardo Quisumbing, Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Adolfo Azcuna, Minita Chico-Nazario, Renato Corona, Dante Tinga and Cancio Garcia.

Apart from Panganiban, Carpio and Ynares, those who voted against the resolution were Associate Justices Conchita Carpio Morales and Romeo Callejo. Newly appointed Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. took no part in the discussion.

Lopezes reassert P3-B …

From page A1

51,827,640 Equitable PCI Bank shares with a current market value of P3.8 billion based on the listed company's latest share price of P73.50.

Equitable PCI Bank resulted from the controversial 1999 acquisition by Equitable Banking Corp. of the much bigger PCIBank, which was then jointly owned by the Lopez family and taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

Equitable gained control of PCIBank after then President Joseph Estrada ordered the state-run pension funds Social Security System (SSS) and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to lend it the money to buy the bank.

Curiously, the Lopez family's renewed interest in Equitable PCI comes at a time when it is being aggressively wooed for a merger by Banco de Oro Universal Bank of mall tycoon Henry Sy Sr.

These merger overtures are being resisted by the GSIS and the Romualdez family, which votes the contested shares. Together, the two groups control close to one-fifth of the bank.

Withdrawal of P138 million

Asked by reporters why the family was reviving its interest in Equitable PCI 20 years after regaining control of its business empire and seven years after selling a stake in the bank, Oscar Lopez said the move was prompted by news reports that former Equitable PCI chair Martin Romualdez withdrew last year P138 million from an escrow account of the shares.

The amount represents accumulated dividends and profit-sharing proceeds of the shares from 1991 to 1995.

The other day, the Lopez family filed a fresh set of complaints with the Sandiganbayan requiring the bank to explain the withdrawal of the funds.

"It's only now that we heard of this withdrawal so it's only now that we complained," Oscar Lopez said, adding that the claim had actually been pending in the courts since 1988.

He said the family had no plans of siding either with the Henry Sy group or with the GSIS in the battle for control over the bank's board, even as he acknowledged that the contested stake—equivalent to only one board seat—could sway the fight in either direction.

Swing vote

"This is a swing vote. That's why I became chair," Oscar Lopez said, recalling the time his family edged out the Gokongwei group for control of the bank in the 1990s with the help of the very same contested shares.

"It's more of the principle of the thing," he said about the Lopez family's motive for reasserting its claim. "We will decide later on what to do with it, if we want to sell."

"I'm sure both groups would want [to buy the shares] anyway."

Lopez claimed that the Equitable PCI shares were part of the bigger hoard of shares under Meralco Securities Corp.—the pre-martial law flagship firm of the family—that were wrested from it under duress by the Marcos regime through his Meralco "account manager" Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, the father of the bank's former chair Martin Romualdez.

"The late Eugenio Lopez Jr., eldest among the sons of industrialist Eugenio H. Lopez Sr. and father of Gabby, was imprisoned by the dictatorship and used as bait to gain control of Lopez assets, including Meralco, ABS-CBN, the Manila Chronicle, telegraph company PT&T and PCIBank," the family's joint statement read.

The INQUIRER's text messages and calls to Martin Romualdez and his brother Philip, who was at one point a nominee to the bank's board, were not answered.

Mike Arroyo back on public display

From page A1

charity circuit with the launching of a P20-million scholarship program for doctors in the country.

"Bagong Doktor Para sa Bayan" project will send 22 scholars to study medicine at the University of the Philippines and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Arroyo said he was ready to revive all of his charity programs that were put on hold last year such as those that helped people with hydrocephalus and kidney problems.

"I feel more comfortable going out in public now. I am ready to resume my charity work," Arroyo said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Low profile but active

Arroyo said that while he had kept a low profile since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke last year, he had remained active in charity events. "I just didn't want these projects to be spoiled by politics."

A year ago, Arroyo was forced to drop all the projects of the First Gentleman Foundation—from the "Bagong Ngiti sa Dating Ngebu" free dentures project to the "Bagong Mata Para sa may Katarata"—cataract removal surgery program—because of criticisms they were being used to gain the loyalty of the men in uniform considering that most of the beneficiaries were soldiers and policemen.

"They claimed these projects were for loyalty checks in the military but they were wrong because these were all for charity," Arroyo said.

Due to the heavy flak generated by her husband's foray into the limelight via charity, President Macapagal-Arroyo was forced to send the First Gentleman out of the country to allow her to focus on her own mounting political problems without the complications attendant to allegations of her husband's involvement in "jueteng."

That certain speech

In a speech before businessmen in Makati on June 29, the President said: "My husband has volunteered to go abroad. He and even his contribution to health care and sports development have been the object of pillory, especially by my political enemies who've been trying to distract me from fulfilling my reform agenda as president. And so he will leave to remove these distractions and volunteered to remove himself from any situation which will cast doubt on my presidency."

The First Gentleman spent a few months last year in the United States with his son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, but his exile was short-lived as he flew in and out of the country.

With the political crisis arising from the "Hello Garci" scandal easing, the First Gentleman resumed his role as the top patron of Philippine sports during the Southeast Asian Games held here last November.

But with the President weathering an impeachment case, a Cabinet mutiny, numerous rallies demanding her resignation, dipping popularity and a foiled coup attempt, the First Gentleman apparently felt it was time to get back into the limelight.

Private donors

The First Gentleman said his foundation had earmarked an initial P20 million for the medicine scholarship program from the contributions of private donors whom he refused to identify.

DepEd to use sex ed module after all

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION is pushing through with the distribution of a controversial teaching module on sex education, saying public schoolchildren needed to be informed to help them make responsible decisions.

But DepEd Assistant Secretary Vilma Labrador clarified that what the module highlighted were issues related to adolescent sexuality. It was not meant as a manual for the sex act, she said.

She was also careful not to use the term "sex education," referring to the lessons as "adolescent reproductive health."

The education department stopped the distribution of the module after the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines objected to some of its contents.

Labrador said education officials were willing to sit down with the CBCP and other sectors to discuss the objections.

"We want to listen to all sectors and give way to different comments. We will then evaluate (these comments) and find ways to deliver the goods," she said.

The DepEd will initially use the module in two pilot schools, the Parañaque National High School and the Taguig National High School. The lessons will be given to junior and senior high school students.

Labrador said the DepEd was in fact discouraging "free and pre-marital sex."

She said lessons in adolescent reproductive health were needed in the public schools because "these are the realities of life."

"Looking after our children is our responsibility though parents are the first and primary teachers. In our schools, we want our children to be guided (on these issues)," Labrador said.

She explained that teachers were primarily concerned with the well-being of students who experienced not only physical but also spiritual, psychological and emotional changes. She said teachers were also involved in the formation of values.

The modules will help public school students acquire a "good foundation so they know how to make decisions," she said.

"If they have a good foundation, they will know when is the right moment. They will know when to decide and what is right. We want to teach them to value their bodies," Labrador said.

She said the DepEd had been integrating general discussions of adolescent reproductive health into the curriculum.

DepEd Officer in Charge Fe Hidalgo said it was a matter of "giving the students all the information at this point or not."

In the foreword to the module, Hidalgo said information "should be made available to adolescents to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and the subsequent risk of infertility".

Ex-DepEd chief, others charged

THE DEPARTMENT of Education filed yesterday charges of graft, plunder and conspiracy against former officials of the Fund Assistance for Private Education (FAPE) who included former Education Secretary Ricardo Gloria.

DepEd Assistant Secretary Camilo Montessa identified the other accused as former FAPE president Adrian Arcelo and his wife, Dr. Marilou Arcelo, former FAPE vice president Roberto Borromeo, former trustee Jose Baltazar, former investment directors Rosanne Duavit and Cipriano Garcia and former programs director Corazon Nera. Gloria had served as FAPE governing board chair.

The charges were related to alleged graft and plunder committed from 1994 to 1998.

An ad hoc committee created in 1999 had reported that FAPE had "seriously overextended itself financially." The report said this was "due to the questionable financial dealings, particularly the unauthorized and unlawful release of money amounting to P56,650,800 to the Arcelo couple, through an alleged dummy, the John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation, a school based in Iloilo City."

Montessa said the suit was the first major corruption case filed under the recently launched Samasamang Pagkilos Laban sa Katiwalian (Sapak) project of the DepEd and the Office of the Ombudsman. *Alcuin Papa*

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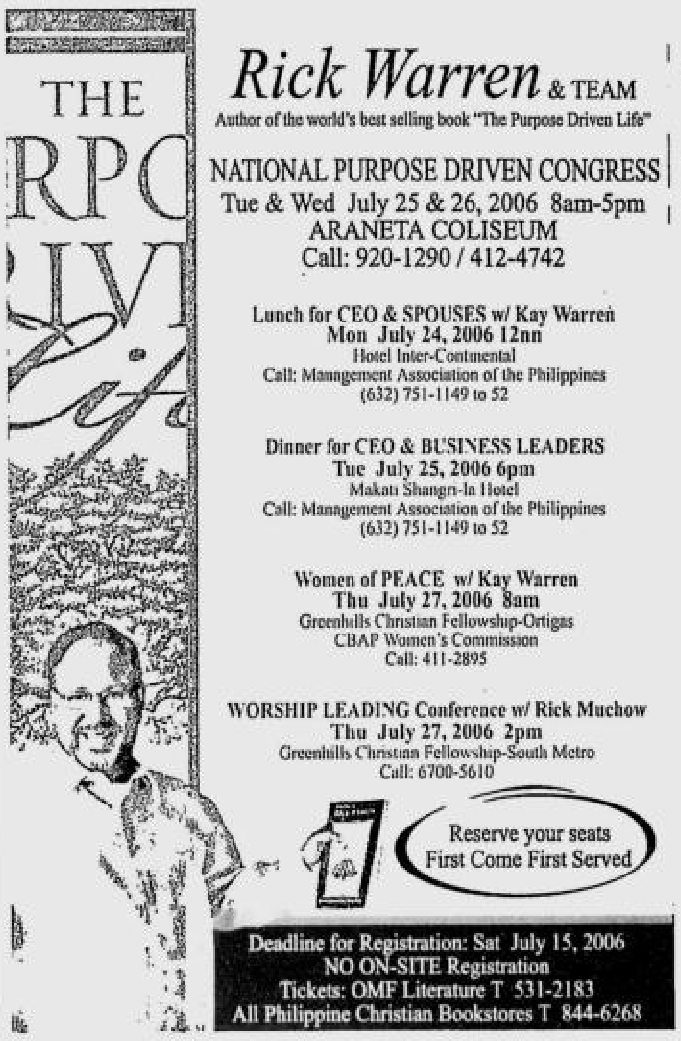
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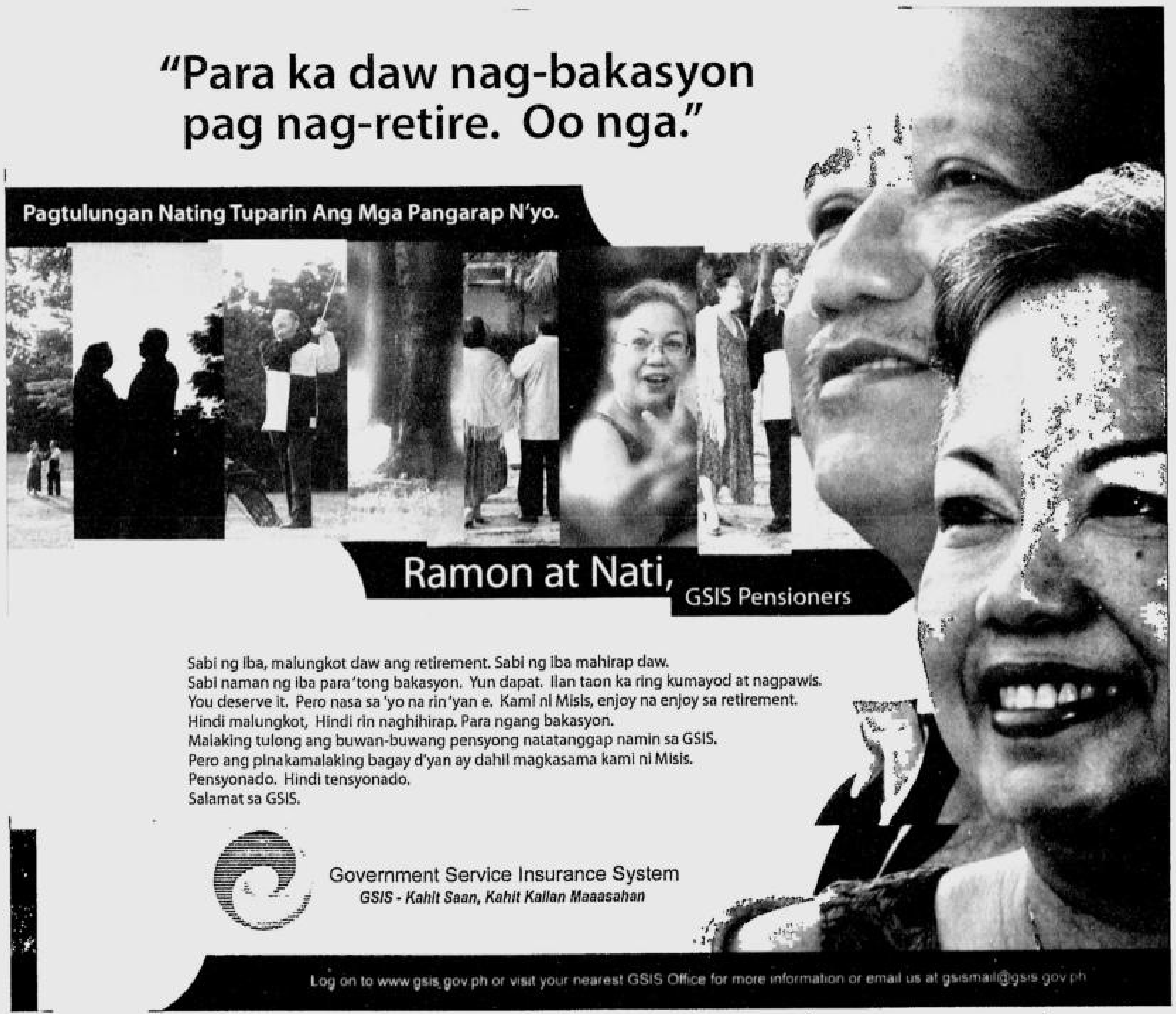
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WORLD TOURISM BEAUTIES

Miss Belarus Bezborodko Ekaterina (center) is best in bikini in the Miss World Tourism contest. Second from left is the Philippines' representative Gabionza Justine Vinluan. The other contestants are Justiniano Pamela Saucedo of Bolivia, Strajin Gordana of Serbia and Montenegro, and Eboundit Fatouma Blanda of the Congo. Contestants from 85 countries are competing for the title tomorrow in Chongqing, China. AP

Nigeria steps up efforts to free 2 abducted Pinoys

LAGOS—NIGERIAN POLICE STEPPED UP efforts Thursday to secure freedom for two Filipino oil workers kidnapped two days ago by unknown gunmen terrorizing the swamps of the oil-rich Niger Delta.

"We have3 stepped up efforts to secure their release. We are still trying to establish contact with the kidnappers," national police spokesperson Haz Iwendi told AFP.

Iwendi said the latest kidnapping in the region, home to the country's lucrative oil industry, came barely two weeks after five South Korean oil workers were abducted. They were released unharmed two days later.

Police not losing sleep

"We are not losing sleep over this dastardly act. It is the responsibility of the security forces to secure their release and guarantee the safety of oil workers and their facilities," he assured.

The oilmen working for Petroleum Geo-Services in Port Harcourt were abducted on Tuesday by several gunmen in a speedboat, but no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

A shadowy separatist group, the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), which has claimed several kidnappings since January, said it was not involved in the latest abduction.

"We have nothing to do with that," the group said in a short e-mail message sent to AFP on Wednesday.

Frequent target

Foreign oil workers have frequently been targeted in the Niger Delta, a hotbed of unrest by armed separatists demanding a larger share in oil revenues and compensation for environmental destruction due to oil exploration.

Since January, 31 foreign oil workers—now including the two Filipinos—have been kidnapped in the region, but all previous hostages had been freed unharmed after periods in captivity ranging from several days to several weeks.

In Manila, The Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed yesterday the abduction in Nigeria on June 21 of two Filipino workers employed by an oil company.

"The motive for the abduction is still unknown. Information gathered so far stated that the Filipinos were carrying out a routine check on one of their vessels when they were attacked," said Masaranga Umpa, Philippine ambassador to Nigeria, in a statement released by the DFA.

Identities withheld

The Filipinos were being held by gunmen who stormed a jetty at Aker Base, Rumuolumeni, in the Inkwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Umpa said.

The DFA did not release the identities of the Filipinos while negotiations for their release were going on, but their families have been informed of the abduction.

No information was immediately available on who abducted the Filipinos or if there was a ransom demand, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

A consular team from the Philippine Embassy is now in Port Harcourt in Southern Nigeria to monitor the efforts of the Nigerian authorities and PGS to secure the release of the two Filipinos.

In his report to the DFA, Umpa said there had been several abductions of foreign workers in Nigeria this year but all were released.

Released after 18 days

In February, Filipino worker Anthony Santos was abducted by militant youths from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta. He was released after 18 days in captivity.

With 27,000 square miles of swampland and mangrove forests, the Niger Delta is the site of Africa's biggest oil reserves, the DFA said.

The department said that as of December last year, there were 3,790 Filipinos working in Nigeria.

"Most of them are land-based. A number are working in the oil, gas and construction industries," Asuque said. *AFP; Nikko Dizon*

US resets trial of man who made bomb threat

LAS VEGAS—THE TRIAL HAS BEEN postponed for a Nevada man charged with making a false bomb threat against the United States Embassy in the Philippines.

The trial of Apolinar Agelio Tiu, 62, was rescheduled for Aug. 14 on charges of conveying false information relating to explosive materials and making a false statement involving terrorism, a clerk for US District Judge Roger Hunt said Wednesday.

Tiu, of Las Vegas, pleaded not guilty May 17 to a charge of falsely reporting to a federal Homeland Security "TIPS" line in February that the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group planned to bomb the American Embassy on the island of Mindanao.

US officials said there was no evidence of a bomb plot. The US does not have an embassy on Mindanao but maintains consulates and satellite offices.

Tiu's lawyer did not immediately respond to requests Wednesday for comment. AP

E. M. Zita; 73

EMILIANA MANALANG ZITA OF BAMbang, Sta. Cruz, Manila, and widow of Eliseo Zita, died yesterday at the age of 73.

She is survived by her children Irene Zita Manabat and Alvin, a sister and a brother and nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie at Funeraria Popular on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz. Interment will be on June 25 at 2 p.m. at North Green Park near the North Cemetery.

Take care of OFWs, Cory urges host countries

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON Aquino yesterday called on countries that were destinations of millions of overseas Filipino workers to protect them from abuse and exploitation.

In her keynote speech at the opening session of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, and Liberal International held at the Philippine International Convention Center, Aquino said labor migration could be a force for convergence and stability.

"As countries seek closer economic integration, and as bilateral and regional agreements are being forged, migration barriers are also falling down fast. It is in the economic interest of destination countries if they open their doors to migrant labor and accord fair and good treatment to migrant workers," Aquino said.

She said it was likewise the duty of countries sending overseas workers to ensure that they did not end up in the hands of crime syndicates and cruel employers.

Labor migration was one of the issues on the agenda of the CALD-ALDE-LI attended by some 100 parliamentarians and officials from 30 countries in Asia, Europe and North America and hosted by Liberal Party and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

The phenomenon has two faces that both countries of origin and destination must grapple with, Aquino said.

"One side shows economic opportunity and a brighter future for their families," Aquino said. "The other side tells the sad and gripping stories of harassment, racial discrimination, xenophobia, cruelty and even death in the hands of foreign employers."

While overseas workers are deemed modern-day heroes for their dollar remittances that keep their countries' economies afloat, Aquino said countries of origin like the Philippines have to bear the "grim economic and social consequences" of labor migration.

She noted a United Nations report that said that of the $240 billion migrant workers sent home to their families in 2005, $167 billion went to developing countries. The amount, she said, was bigger than all combined international aid that could be given to these countries.

She said countries of origin also suffer a brain drain, apart from the social cost of broken families, due to long years of separation of workers from their families.

"For instance, in the Philippines, we pride ourselves in being a world supplier of medical and health care professionals. However, years down the road, this will pose a big problem in our health sector," she said.

The LP hosted the three-day meeting, without its former chair Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila. Atienza and his supporters broke off from the LP to protest the party's withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo in July last year, and set up his own wing.

"This is the true LP," Drilon said when asked about Atienza's absence.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said Atienza and his supporters were deemed resigned from LP.

DFA: Istanbul Pinoys' new gateway to Europe

ISTANBUL HAS THIS YEAR BEcome a transit point for illegal Filipino workers promised jobs in Europe, and the Philippine Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, has met with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in an effort to address the problem of illegal recruitment of Filipinos to European destinations.

Forty-seven Filipinos have been repatriated to the Philippines between January and May alone after they were discovered attempting to enter Europe through Istanbul, Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla said in a statement released by the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The figure was a big leap from the previous 10 cases handled by the embassy which involved the entry into Europe through Istanbul of Filipinos, overstaying and the illegal entry into Turkey from neighboring countries.

Guinomla said the Filipino workers informed the embassy that they each paid P300,000 to their recruiters in Manila. They were asked to make an additional payment of more than $3,000 upon arriving in Istanbul.

Guinomla and other embassy officials met last week with the IOM to seek help in addressing the problem of illegal recruitment of Filipinos for employment in various European countries.

IOM chief of mission in Ankara Marielle Sander-Linstrom said the organization "has been urging Turkish authorities to adopt coherent and comprehensive policies on issues related to migration," the DFA said.

Nikko Dizon

NEW MINDANAO AIR LINKS
Secretary Jesus Dureza (right), Presidential adviser on the peace process, points out to Ibragim Sharifkulov, MOSPHIL Aero Inc. president, existing air linkages between Mindanao and the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). Jointly set up by Russian investors, MOSPHIL Aero intends to establish passenger air routes between Zamboanga, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi and Sandakan, Malaysia, along with cargo routes between Davao City and Palau.

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OPINION

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Discord

EDITORIAL

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, ABOUT A WEEK PASSED between the resignation of Lt. Col. Orlando de Leon as chief of staff of the Philippine Marines and the release to the public of his letter of resignation. This is significant, because it shows that even if he wanted to cause a maximum amount of trouble, he still wanted to give the impression that he tried to do things in a gentlemanly fashion: first submit his resignation, and then, after a decent interval, let the public know his reasons for quitting.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has responded to the release of De Leon's letter by saying it wished he hadn't done that. Col. Tristan Kison, chief of the military's public information office, said it would have been better if De Leon had just aired his grievances before his superior officers instead of sharing them with the opposition and the media.

Kison has a point. It is not as if De Leon had left the service to speak up as a private citizen. He remains an officer on active duty, even if his status is "floating."

Predictably, allies of the administration in Congress have rushed to denounce De Leon's statement that "unbearable political pressure" led him to resign his position. It's all ugly politics, professional politicians intoned, perhaps unaware of the irony of the statement.

Malacañang officials were more subtle, with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita claiming that De Leon was on the verge of being dismissed, if he hadn't already been dismissed, and tried to muddle the issue by claiming he had resigned. (For once, Ermita may be right. But so soon after the summary dismissal of Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert F. del Rosario, the Palace isn't in a very good position to plead the merits of following procedure.) Ermita said the public disclosure of De Leon's resignation was much ado over nothing, even as he made light of the circumstances surrounding the resignation. "The whys and wherefores of his resignation as he claims it or his relief are not important," Ermita said. "It was supposed to be part of the normal rotation in the corps, and it was made an issue because of recent events in Fort Bonifacio."

Even as his subordinates threatened to throw the book at De Leon, AFF Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga was less confrontational. "That allegation that the Marine Corps is politicized is the opinion of just one officer," Senga said. "We should take it at that. It is the policy of the entire AFP that we should be apolitical and we are doing our best to follow that policy."

Indeed, De Leon's complaint about politics can't obscure his highly political decision to leak his letter to members of the opposition, and his not protesting the circulation of the letter in an impeachment forum. But now that its contents have been made public, his grievances will hound the Armed Forces.

De Leon's main complaint is that what matters most in the AFP is no longer loyalty to institutions or to the Constitution and to the Republic but to a cabal of officers rightly or wrongly perceived to be more interested in protecting President Macapagal-Arroyo than anything else. Regardless of the official rhetoric, this suspicion won't go away, precisely because the instinctive reaction of the AFP is to sweep any criticism under the rug.

Discord within the military organization obviously is real. De Leon, for example, is widely viewed to be in sympathy with the likes of his former superior, Col. Ariel Querubin, who provoked the standoff at Marine HQ last February. The AFP has still to file charges against Querubin and those who supported him, some of whom are still in the active service. Even as the military top brass are dropping hints that there may be more to De Leon's resignation than meets the eye, and even as they consider throwing the book at him while insisting that his is an isolated case, there remains all those pending cases—or, to be more precise, non-cases.

Compared to civilian justice, military discipline is harsh. And yet, in cases crying out for discipline, the military cannot, or will not, move. Should the top brass feign puzzlement when some officers cry foul in public?

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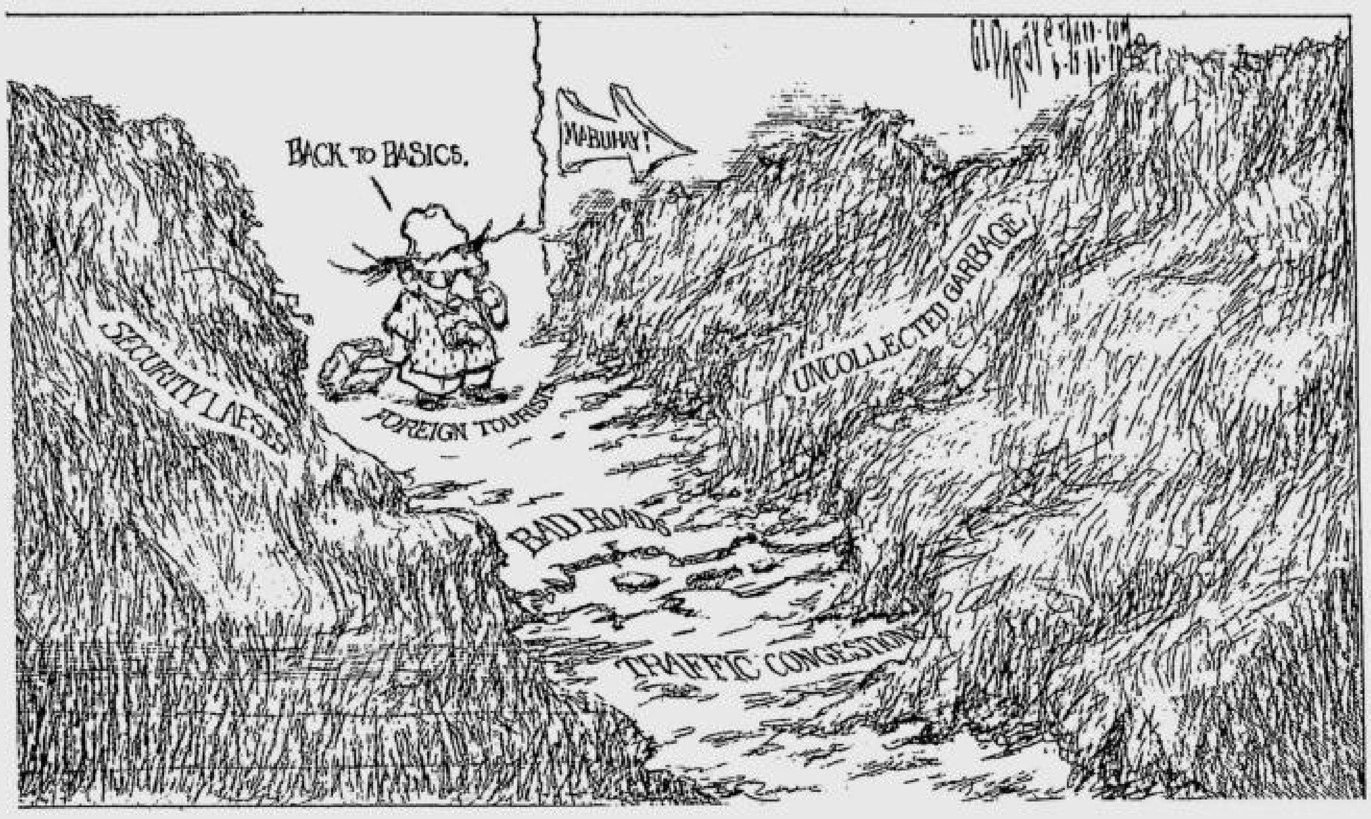


The vanishing sidewalks

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE WAS A REPORT IN OUR NEWSPAPERS several days ago saying students are not safe in our streets. This is true not only because of muggers and pickpockets and our dark streets, but also because of undisciplined drivers. Still the most frequent cause of accidents for students is the lack of sidewalks. No, there are no sidewalks on some streets.

To know what I mean, go to Tandang Sora Street near the corner of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, going to Novaliches. There are no sidewalks there. The storefronts and concrete fences of private lots are at the edge, literally, of the street. There is no space for a sidewalk.

Every day thousands of elementary and high school students walk to and from the New Era Elementary School and the Culiat High School, until well after dark, to take rides at the corner of Commonwealth. Because there are no sidewalks, they have to walk on the street, where they risk being sideswiped by speeding vehicles.

To make matters worse, jeepneys and tricycles park on Tandang Sora near the Commonwealth corner, in spite of numerous "No Parking" signs, to wait for passengers. Jeepney and tricycle drivers have made this corner their terminal, even though this is a very busy, traffic-choked zone. As a result, pedestrians have to walk around the parked vehicles at the risk of being run over by passing vehicles.

The infuriating thing is that there is a Police Community Precinct under the flyover at the corner. The policemen assigned there can see all the violations being committed and the resulting chaos, but they don't do anything. City Hall also sends traffic enforcers there and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) fields traffic aides during rush hours, but they all disappear during *merienda* time. So during the morning and afternoon rush hours, there are three sets of enforcers there, wearing different uniforms. Often, groups of motorcycle cops can be seen chatting in the shade of the flyover, and almost always, there are patrol cars parked under the flyover.

But even when they are all there, there is no order in the vehicular and pedestrian traffic. There are huge signs saying "Strictly No Loading/Unloading," but jeepneys and buses still stop in the middle of the street to pick up and disgorge passengers. There are two waiting sheds at the foot of the flyover, one on each side of Commonwealth, but hardly anyone uses them because the vehicles stop in the middle of the street, away from the waiting sheds. So the pedestrians wait in the middle of the street instead.

Even when there are traffic enforcers, they don't direct the pedestrians and vehicles to the waiting sheds. They stand in the middle of the street along with them, waving at vehicles which stop for the passengers only a few feet from them, in the middle of the street. Drivers just ignore the "Strictly No Loading/Unloading SB" (for Sonny Belmonte) signs.

Pedestrians have to risk life and limb to cross Commonwealth. There are painted pedestrian lanes, but drivers act as though these were invisible. They don't slow down even when they see pedestrians crossing. The pedestrians have to dodge the vehicles when they cross the street. Coming from the direction of the Quezon Memorial Circle, Commonwealth dips in this area. Buses and jeepneys race each other to be the first to pick up passengers.

You'd think that one or two of the enforcers would bother to stop the vehicles to allow the pedestrians to cross, but they don't. They just stand beside the "No Loading/Unloading" signs, along with barkers calling for passengers for the jeepneys that stop beside them, completely blocking the pedestrian lane.

Do the enforcers arrest the drivers? No, sir, they just behave as though they don't see anything, watching idly as the drivers hand coins to the barkers.

But here is the strangest part: The MMDA started to build a pedestrian overpass in the area during the 2004 election campaign. A big billboard was put up, with the smiling face of President Macapagal-Arroyo, proclaiming that this was her project. After the elections, construction was stopped. The overpass is now two-thirds finished, with only the overpass over the east-bound lane and the stairs missing. It has been years since construction was stopped. Completing it would make crossing Commonwealth less dangerous, and perhaps make traffic more orderly, but nobody seems to care. I asked MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando why the overpass is not finished and he said they ran out of funds.

This leads to another strange thing: I pass through this portion of Commonwealth and Tandang Sora every day, and I haven't been able to spot anything wrong with them. But every few months or so, a contractor digs up the pavements and cements them again. Why?

Somebody told me it is because there are still funds for these streets and when the fiscal year is about to end, they have to be spent or they would revert back to the General Fund. So the Department of Public Works and Highways gives repair jobs to friendly contractors so the funds would not be forfeited.

But if there are extra funds, why not use them to put sidewalks on Tandang Sora or to finish the footbridge?

Finally, what is a Police Community Precinct for but to enforce law and order on a given site at all hours? The precinct under the flyover does not do that. It only shows that you can violate the law in plain view of policemen and nothing will happen to you.

Int'l law constraints in GMA's war

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT "WAR IS THE VANishing point of law," and that before the power of arms, the laws are silent. But, mercifully for all of us, the civilized world has evolved basic ground rules. It disavows the "just war" theory, by which we purported to adjudge the causes of war, as in the old days when crusaders held aloft the banner of one god as against the infidels.

Having forsaken the thorny "whys" of waging war, it shifts rather to the conduct of hostilities. The means of fighting, the "how," is "not unlimited," to use the lawyers' double negative, and there are legal constraints to war. This body of law is known as international humanitarian law (IHL), and it is administered worldwide by a neutral organization that, over the past century, has earned the world's respect, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the New People's Army, for their own sakes, ought to know that it is actually in their best interest to respect the "Law of Armed Conflict."

After GMA declared her "all-out war" to decimate the Left, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez blithely acknowledged that in the course of the campaign, "You can't avoid collateral damage ... Sometimes there are bombings and civilians might get hurt." That statement is most worrisome, coming as it does from the highest levels of government. While it can purport to be a mere statement of fact, nay, of being resigned to the sad realities of fighting the NPA's "protracted war" in the countrysides, it betrays a certain indifference to the human costs of politico-military decisions.

Fundamental to IHL is the principle of "distinction." All parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants. Attacks may not be directed against civilians and, in the words of a famous international law case, "the only legitimate object [in war] is to weaken the military forces of the enemy."

I can imagine the justice secretary saying that these nice legal distinctions are difficult to apply in the field. After all, Chairman Mao himself called war "this monster of mutual slaughter among men," and thus his famous dictum: "A revolution is not a dinner party." It cannot be so refined and neat. But while the Philippine Left may have oohed and aahed when those words were uttered by Mao himself, I shudder to think how they would react now that parallel arguments come from the mouth of the justice secretary. Imagine him saying: "Counter-insurgency is not a soiree or a romantic rendezvous."

(I once gave an IHL lecture in an ICRC forum held in Xi'an, China, and hey, it was held at the political academy of the Peoples' Liberation Army, I suppose, ground zero of political correctness during their heady days of revolutionary zeal. My Chinese academic colleagues were surprised when I quoted Mao. Some must have felt that I was 25 years too late. Others, I am sure, wondered how this barbarian learned of Mao's writings out here in the boondocks so far away from the Middle Kingdom. Oh, if I could only describe to them what it was to study Political Science in UP Diliman in the mid-1970s.)

Indeed, that is why IHL is superior to traditional "international human rights" rules in ensuring human dignity during armed conflict. Human rights are obligations owed by states to people. The New People's Army is not a state, and only the Philippine government is bound (an "asymmetrical" obligation, in lawyer talk). Contrast this to IHL, which creates obligations owed by armed groups to one another, in our case, between the Philippine state and a "non-state party" like the CPP-NPA.

Both sides must scrupulously respect the principle of "distinction." Gonzalez may say that yeah, civilians might die during bombings, but he must remember that some objects are prima facie civilian: towns, villages, residential areas, schools, hospitals, indeed, even cultural and historical property and even the natural environment (recall Saddam Hussein's men burning oil wells as they retreated during Operation Desert Storm).

The government may blame the NPA's "peoples' war" strategy. Guerrilla warfare relies precisely upon the mobilization of entire villages and on the blurring of the distinction between combatants and non-combatants. But IHL protection remains "unless and [only] for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities," and the government merely falls into a trap when it deems sympathizers as combatants.

Conversely, it behooves the Left as well to demonstrate good faith in honoring their IHL obligations. It doesn't help their cause for Joma Sison to justify the killings of breakaway Left leaders as part of revolutionary justice. But how different is it to classify Romy Kintanar, apparently a "resigned" NPA commander, as fair game for armed attack (he was killed while eating in a Japanese restaurant at the Quezon Circle) from Gonzalez's warrantless arrests of leftists under the "continuing crime" logic that "once a rebel, always a rebel"? The government may say the real difference is that one was shot in cold blood, while the government's victims were merely arrested. But given the disappearances and killings of the legal Left on an almost daily basis, I am no longer sure if there is any real difference in the fate of the victims.

Both sides must realize that what they are fighting is a battle for the hearts and minds of the Filipino nation. It cannot be won by either side dissipating their claims to legitimacy. GMA aims to win brownie points by leading a McCarthyist witch hunt. The Left can succeed only by showing us who in the end is the real witch.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

All-out war will bring more civilian deaths

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO THIS WEEK launched the offensive by a reinforced Army task force in Luzon against the New People's Army in a send-off ceremony for the troops at Camp Aguinaldo. She ordered further deployments in areas where the rebels have been collecting "revolutionary taxes" from businessmen.

Her appearance at Camp Aguinaldo was rife with symbolism. First, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, she was signaling that she was in charge of the campaign to crush the communist insurgency during her term. Second, she made a play for the support of the strategic business community, from which, according to military sources, the rebels have been extracting an estimated P120 million annually in "revolutionary taxes."

The President said she had received complaints from businessmen in areas identified as "critical areas"—in Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and the Bicol Region—who had to pay the exaction for fear of attacks or retaliation.

So, what is her answer to these extortions? "In areas where there are many reports of the rebels charging revolutionary tax," she told the troops, "we will deploy battalions and companies." In short, she will saturate these areas with troops, in the hope their presence in big numbers would deter the rebels from carrying out their nefarious activities. She ordered the deployment of more troops as she spoke to 750 soldiers, part of the 1,500 who had been shifted from Mindanao to reinforce the troops in Luzon and carry the brunt of her "all-out war" against the communists.

According to military intelligence, the NPA has 7,400 armed men. The NPA claims it has established 120 guerrilla zones covering 800 municipalities in 70 provinces, although the military tends to believe that most of the rebels are concentrated in the critical areas it has identified. The question is, even with the reinforcement of the Luzon army with the troops from Mindanao, will they not be spread out too thinly over a wide area as to be ineffective? The conventional ratio in counter-insurgency campaigns is 10 soldiers to one guerrilla. The soldiers will be spreading the dragnet of "search and destroy" over a wide area in which the guerrillas have no fixed bases or camps—in a war without fronts.

From this perspective and the recorded experience in counter-insurgency war, the Arroyo regime's all-out war has the makings of a campaign sliding into a bottomless pit into which troops and money will be sucked. The President has committed P1 billion for the purchase of attack helicopters, armored vehicles and hardware for at least two years, the time frame of the campaign. At the same time, she earmarked P75 billion for socio-economic programs for the rest of her term.

When the President declared the war in Isabela, it was from the platform of forming five mega-regions for socio-economic development. In her meeting with the Cabinet and regional leaders of North Luzon, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, the President had committed to give the region P25 billion a year or P75 billion over three years. The meeting in Isabela did not sound like a war council at all, until the President, converted it into a military adventure with the announcement that she was unleashing the dogs of war to crush the insurgency.

The immediate effect of the declaration was that it created instantly three war zones—framed by the "critical" insurgency areas of Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and the Bicol Region—rather than regions dedicated to growth and development. Pronouncements of the military authorities following the President's declaration have revealed plans to blanket the critical areas with troops in "search and destroy" operations modeled after the hamletting strategy used to fight the Vietcong in Vietnam, a strategy adopted at the some stages of the anti-insurgency campaign of previous governments. This strategy failed, but it produced human rights abuses and atrocities in Vietnam as well as in the Philippines. We can therefore expect that as the troops of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan of the 7th Army Division spread out in Luzon in search and destroy operations not only to engage the rebels but also to provide security to businessmen against exaction of "revolutionary taxes," the level of fighting will rise and so will the number of casualties.

But it is not certain that the guerrillas will be baited into open combat by this new military offensive. They will refuse to engage government troops in battle and will hit and run, and it is this situation that will be very dangerous for the civilians and non-combatants caught in the cross-fire. In the melee, as experience has shown, it will be hard for the army to determine the guerrillas from unarmed peasants fleeing punitive operations while rebels melt into the woods and mountain tracks.

This renewed war to end an insurgency that has defied all government campaigns during the past 50 years has as much prospects of success as those of its predecessors because it is using the failed tools and strategies of the past.

While the outcome of this campaign is uncertain, one thing can be expected: the army will be reporting as the campaign progresses a rising body count of "enemy" casualties. And as sure as dawn follows sunset, most of the casualties will be "collateral damage" but the government will justify this by saying that loss of lives is "unavoidable" in the war against insurgents.

A gamble and a responsibility

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, MARIA RESSA, formerly of CNN, will have been head of News and Public Affairs of ABS-CBN for a year. And shortly after this milestone, the network will launch a daring venture and Maria's biggest gamble yet: the late-evening newscast "Bandila."

While they promise all sorts of groundbreaking innovations with "Bandila," Ressa and her two associates, Luchie Cruz Valdes and Charrie Villa, have really pulled off their biggest scoop by convincing management to make a brave programming decision: to air "Bandila" at 10:30 p.m., starting July 3.

Actually, in less competitive times, "late evening" newscasts aired at 10 p.m. or thereabouts, after the "prime-time" entertainment fare. But because advertisers were more interested in supporting the higher-rating sitcoms, dramas and telenovelas, and because networks began overloading their schedules with advertising, "prime time" began to eat into time slots normally allotted to news and public affairs, such that late-evening news shows now air at 12 midnight, with public affairs shows making do with insomniacs, party-goers, call center employees and students pulling all-nighters, the only ones probably still awake at 1 a.m.

* * *

WHILE such a situation may have made business sense, it didn't make for very good TV, or so says ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez. Surveys and focus group discussions revealed that audiences were unhappy about the "news for insomniacs" format, said Lopez. So the decision to schedule a late-evening news show at 10:30 p.m., even if it means competing with a sitcom or drama on the "other channel," was made. Three days a week, "Bandila" will also be followed by a public affairs show, which should test the ratings power of this genre.

"We hope the public shows its support for our decision," Lopez said, mainly by tuning in and producing the ratings which will, in turn, win more advertiser support. Although I suppose nothing's stopping advertisers from putting their money where their mouth is by sponsoring "Bandila" regardless of the ratings.

"One day" Lopez joked when asked how long he would wait before deciding if ABS-CBN "won the battle." Ressa herself warns that "if we're wrong" and "Bandila" turns out to be a dud, "we would have to wait for at least another decade before we get news at a time when we're still awake."

* * *

IT is by no means a "happy" book, in the sense that most books about prominent personages celebrate their accomplishments and highlight their happiest moments. But even if "Remember, I Love You All Very Dearly," the book sub-titled "Jaime L. Cardinal Sin: The Final Journey," is chock-full of photos from the cardinal's wake and funeral last year, it is, at heart, a "feel good" volume. For the book is also a summation of a life lived fully, lived in full accord with a mission and a calling, and which, in the final reckoning, managed to change the tide of history.

The launching of the book at the Edsa Shrine Tuesday evening was part of a Triduum, or three-day liturgical observance, of the first death anniversary of Cardinal Sin, which fell last Wednesday. And though so much had already been written about the cardinal in his lifetime, the essays in the book—memoirs by his friends, associates and family, homilies delivered during the Masses at his wake and funeral, and articles published in newspapers on the occasion of his passing—still manage to tell us something new, to fill in the gaps, complete the story of the cardinal and flesh out the man behind the spiritual/political personage.

But most of all, the book is a story told in pictures. Noli Yamsuan, who was the cardinal's personal "close-in" photographer for over 30 years, capped his intense coverage of the cardinal's activities with one last assignment, a detailed and devoted documentation of everything that went on during the week-long wake at the Manila Cathedral, and the funeral and burial. Cardinal Sin was at center stage, but Noli's photos are all about the people who came to bid him farewell, people including senior state and church officials, prominent businesspeople, Papal Knights and Dames, bishops, priests, nuns and "ordinary folk," from uniformed students to youth in rubber flip-flops, old folks wheeled in by family members, and elderly caretakers of the Sin household in Aklan. It is a moving testament to the role the cardinal played in the lives of the Filipino people, a testament made all the more powerful by the simplicity of presentation, picture after picture testifying to the spontaneity of the emotions his death engendered.

* * *

BUT I am also happy that included in the book are photos of the cardinal while he was still alive, mingling among parishioners in his many visits to parishes, paying a visit to various social development projects, and, with his confreres and priests, fulfilling his role as shepherd and prophet.

If anything, the book is a reminder of the man who first won our affection when he was appointed archbishop of Manila and began winning us over with his simplicity, charm and, most of all, his humor, most often directed at himself. From genial pastor, the cardinal would soon become a major thorn on the side of the Marcoses, it is true, but I suspect most of the people who flocked to the Manila Cathedral last year were drawn by the smiling visage rather than the stern denunciations. But this was the cardinal for you—a man of contradictions and contrast.

"Remember, I Love You All Very Dearly" (which is how the cardinal closed most of his speeches and homilies) is published by the Serviam Foundation and sells for P500 each. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the many projects of the foundation.

Ads in the 19th century

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OBSERVING THE VIEWING HABITS OF MY nephew and nieces, I noticed that when a program is on they watch for a while and then, when their short attention span is gone, they play with their toys. When the commercials come on, they drop what they are doing and seem glued to the screen. When the program returns, they go back to their toys.

In contrast, adults are drawn to the program rather than the commercials, and they take the commercial break to go to the bathroom or make calls.

The target audience of commercials are people who have the money to buy the products advertised, but they aren't drawn to the ads as much as children. At home, I ignore TV ads, but when I'm abroad, even in countries whose language I do not understand, I find the TV commercials engaging. I sometimes surf all the cable channels in search of foreign TV ads and end up disappointed.

My job often takes me to libraries where I consult old newspapers. I look at these and remember my grandmother in Pampanga supervising the maids as they spent the whole afternoon turning old newspapers into *supot* for sale in the local market.

Today, we all use plastic and if my lola were alive, I wonder what she would have done with her old newspapers. Old newspapers are recycled or thrown away, or used in household cleaning chores. Nobody wants stale news, except historians who use yesterday's news and turn it into history today.

Newspapers take up a lot of space and generate a lot of dust, so most libraries have these transferred to microfilm or to a digital format for easier access and better storage.

While I enjoy using a microfilm reader, there is still the thrill of handling something old. For this, I go to the Lopez Memorial Museum on the ground floor of the Benpres building because the basement is bursting with old periodicals. For some strange reason, old newspaper storage rooms are referred to as a "morgue," which seems quite apt in this case because it is reputedly haunted.

If you want to use whole newspapers or magazines, you can do that. But if you are in a hurry, you can go through shelves of newspaper clippings arranged by subject, with the help of the wonderful librarians, Mercy and Elvie, who know the place like the back of their wrinkled hands.

I go there for pre-martial law material. The photo file is excellent. But since my area of interest is the late 19th century, I ask to see what they have from this period. One time, I went through copies of La ilustracion del Oriente dating way back to 1877.

What material from this era could possibly be interesting to readers in 2006? The advertisements. There was a Botica de D.P. Sartorious (whose name reminded me of Dr. Waterous of the famous Waterous Hospital in San Juan). The *botica* was advertising the celebrated men's hair tonic called "tinte seguro de Dr. Barry" or its other form "tinte negro de Dr. Barry." For the ladies, it was "Crema de perlas de Dr. Barry," a special facial cream made of pearls that improved the complexion and made matrons of 45 years instantly look like a maiden of 20. (This reminded me of my father's remark that when a woman turns 40, the husband changes her for two 20s.) The woman's hair tonic was called "el tricofero de Barry" and it kept hair from falling and maintained its luster. Dr. Barry also made a toothpaste called "La marfilina de Barry" that made teeth shine like ivory. It contained no acids and was said to be of an agreeable taste or flavor. (We have a wide assortment of similar products today, so then as now we are interested in health and beauty products.)

The newspaper told us that Botica de San Gabriel sold a potent *vino tonico*, made from concentrated essence of sarsaparilla, that purified and regenerated the blood. Men's shoes were available from M. Secker y Compania on Escolta. They were imported from Europe and arrived on board the steamship Salvadora, the same ship Rizal and many others took at the end of the last century.

If you wanted duck meat (*carne de aves acuaticas*), you went to Pateros. If that was too far away from where you lived, you just took a boat on the Pasig between Santa Ana and Taguig and you would find the same ducks and duck eggs though not as much as you would find in Pateros, hence its name which was derived from *patos* (ducks).

If you wanted turkey, you went to Malate, San Pedro Makati or San Nicolas near the Pasig. But the best turkeys were found in Pandacan, where peanuts were also grown as in Parañaque.

You would find *bordadoras* in Tondo, *sastres* in Sampaloc, *cajistas* in Mancajistas, Mandaluyong; *lavanderas* and *ollas* in San Pedro Makati, *tapaderas*, *escultores* and *plateros* in Sta. Cruz and *costureras* in Paco.

Reading through these 19th-century ads made me wonder whether some Manila street names were also a form of advertisement: Jaboneros (soap makers), Prensa (press), Soda (fizzy water), Fundador (foundry workers), Fumadores (smokers of tobacco and opium), Ylang-ylang (that marked the place where the fragrant flower was processed) or Platerias (silversmiths). One has to be sensitive to words and place names, for these often convey some sort of history, some story that we are often too busy to notice.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Life

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TOMORROW, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL sign a bill that abolishes the death penalty in the Philippines. The timing is so clearly political, scheduled on the eve of her departure for Italy where she will meet the Pope and presumably receive his praise for her courageous act.

I have campaigned for the abolition of the death penalty through my column but have little reason to feel jubilant. Three events this week serve to remind us that, in spite of the abolition of the death penalty, life continues to be trivialized and devalued in our country.

I start with the continuing pogrom directed against the Left in the Philippines. There is a clear pattern here that strongly suggests that the executions are nationally coordinated. The targets are almost all members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan). The executions are carried out by hooded men on motorcycles, wielding handguns.

Last Monday, gunmen executed George and Mazel Vigo in Kidapawan, North Cotabato. Both were broadcast journalists. George Vigo was also a contributor to the Union of Catholic Asian News and project officer of Community and Family Services Incorporated. Mazel was active in Bayan, and worked as a liaison officer for North Cotabato Rep. Lala Talinio-Santos. George and Mazel left behind five children.

On Tuesday, hooded assassins struck again, shooting dead Eladio Dasi-an, a human rights worker in Negros Oriental, and bringing to 232 the number of militants executed in the streets during the Arroyo presidency. This includes 44 mass media practitioners, making the Philippines the world's most unsafe country for journalists.

The government has denied any complicity in these killings, but expressed almost no concern over the deaths. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales claims that the killings are part of an internal purge in the Left, but presents no evidence for this. Even worse, the government has launched a new counter-insurgency military campaign with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez already proclaiming that there will be "collateral damage," a US-coined term to refer to innocent civilians caught in the crossfire.

Religious death squads

This week, too, the Department of Education announced it was withdrawing reproductive health materials from high schools, following pressure from so-called "pro-life" groups that had threatened to file charges against the acting education secretary with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Depriving young Filipinos of vital education on reproductive health, which includes family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and most importantly, life skills so they can be more discerning in their relationships, including choosing abstinence when necessary, is in a way a death sentence.

Without this vital education on reproductive health, expect to see more young pregnancies. Is it surprising that by the age of 20, nearly one of every four of our females have already started bearing children? The figure would be higher if many hadn't opted for abortions (one out of every six pregnancies in the country is terminated). Yes, that includes many older women, many of whom, even after several children, still have little knowledge about family planning, and continue to be deprived of access to family planning services. The situation is bound to worsen, as the religious death squads become more emboldened by their success at bullying government officials and politicians to keep away from reproductive health.

With an estimated 480,000 abortions in a year, that's more than a thousand women having unsafe, illegal abortions each day, many using herbals and Cytotec pills obtained in the shadows of Quiapo's Catholic church. They will attempt the abortion at home, religiously following instructions from vendors about avoiding cold drinks and coffee, lying still in bed . . . and praying the abortion will be uneventful. Alas, each day, more than 200 women will still have abortion complications so serious that they have to be admitted to hospitals. Many will be turned away from Catholic hospitals, which have policies of not admitting abortion cases. Others will be taken in, but hectored about their immorality.

Many of those who choose to continue with their pregnancy, sometimes after a failed abortion, live hand to mouth, their children dying early from disease and malnutrition. The survivors will drop out earlier from school, a lucky few finding low-paying casual jobs while the others roam the streets.

Life offers few choices, whether one stays in school or not, with government's social services unable to cope with the large population. So should we be surprised when the young seek solace and security in a boyfriend or girlfriend promising eternal love . . . until a pregnancy occurs and begins a new cycle of despondency?

Electric cells

Back in 1986, when we first abolished the death penalty (only to restore it a few years later), lightning struck Death Row and burned down the electric chair. The more religious saw it as a sign of approval from heaven.

This time around, as we once again prepare to abolish the death penalty, five inmates in Cebu's city jail have been electrocuted to death. This happened on Tuesday, not through an electric chair but a live electric wire in their cell that had somehow been activated during the night, coming in contact with the cell's iron bars and sending deadly electrical voltage that killed the five inmates in their sleep.

A freak accident? A sign from heaven favoring more executions? Oh, but that would be a merciless God. These inmates had not even been tried. Four had just been brought in the day before, facing charges ranging from attempted homicide to theft and drugs.

The ghastly deaths remind us that in our country, incarceration itself can be a fate worse than death, whether years of dismal living in subhuman conditions, or a short but violent stay as with the five hapless inmates in Cebu's Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center. (Should I have added "sic" after "Bagong," "Buhay" and "Rehabilitation"?)

Abolishing the death penalty was inevitable in a nation where citizens—young and old, women and men—are condemned, and executed daily, without trial. We are a nation numbed by death, inured by the mockery of the very word "life."

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

How to undermine national interest

INSTEAD OF STRENGTHENING THE nationalist restrictions of the law, instead of saving the economy from its deathbed, President Macapagal-Arroyo and her lackeys are now moving heaven and earth to change the supreme law of the land—to allow the 100-percent exploitation of the country's resources and 100-percent ownership of critical industries, such as education and mass media, banking and health, among others.

GMA's Cha-cha would do away with the remaining nationalist provisions of our present Constitution. These provisions forbid foreign multinationals from siphoning off our national wealth. GMA's Cha-cha only frustrates the people's hopes about genuine political and economic reforms.

The masses' voice about the Chacha has been distorted in the anomalous plebiscite signature drive led by the Arroyo administration. If anything, the plebiscite only "justifies" the malversation of public money, and all for ensuring that the political elite will stay in power.

GMA's Cha-cha is nothing but a hodgepodge of neocolonial and fascist maneuverings that undermine the people's genuine democratic and nationalist yearnings.

We may need to draft a new Charter but GMA's Cha-cha is definitely not it. What we need is a Charter that will uphold genuine democracy, one that is founded on the real aspirations of our people. So why not let a transition council composed of people's leaders do the Charter change—a council of sincere leaders advancing the interests of workers, of the peasants, of the students and of the people in general.

I would certainly put my bet on grass-root sectoral leaders rather than on the same old rotten, cheating and lying politicians who are in government right now.

—NASSER MAROHOMSALIC,
Union of Muslims for Morality and Truth (UMMAT)-White Ribbon Movement (WRM)
North Fairview, Quezon City
ummat_phils@yahoo.com

To care for other people before our own

I FULLY AGREE WITH AIMEE GONZAles that the nursing profession should not be used as a vehicle to acquire wealth. (PDI, 6/13/06)

I see many of today's Filipino youth (unfortunately, among them are doctors and graduates of other courses) who are taking up nursing only because of better salaries abroad—salaries that the Philippine government and health care institutions here can't offer.

I am not against any person wishing to work as a nurse abroad. But if I may remind nurses and nursing students who are planning to go abroad, Florence Nightingale, the world's first nurse, intended the profession to care for the sick, not to earn profits. I am sure if Nightingale were alive today and visited the Philippines, she would feel sad to see that many Filipinos are taking up nursing primarily to be able to leave for greener pastures. Ironically, even nursing schools attract would-be nursing students with promises of "high-paying jobs" abroad.

If the nursing graduates are indeed taking up the course to care for others, isn't it hypocritical for them to be taking it up knowing that they are doing so only to care for the sick of other countries, and not for the more needy Filipinos right here in the Philippines?

—OLIVER G. TUICO JR.

Selling gov't assets must be last option

VICTOR AGUSTIN IN HIS COCKTALES column (PDI, 6/7/06) suggests that the government sell the 178-hectare Camp Aguinaldo, like it did with Fort Bonifacio, to raise funds to wipe out the budget deficit. According to Agustin, Camp Aguinaldo could easily fetch P30 billion.

While Agustin's end may be noble, his means smacks of short-sightedness. If the government sells all its land, it may become a squatter very soon. Before the government even considers selling its assets or imposing new and higher taxes, it should first try to trim its expenses and raise its revenue collections.

How? First, remove the pork barrel of the congressmen and senators as some of them are advocating and save P22.3 billion yearly. Anyway, these funds only end up in non-priority and overpriced projects such as waiting sheds, streetlights, covered courts, parks, fountains, concrete fences and barangay patrol jeeps. Second, seize the assets of those who fail the lifestyle check and, if the assets are found to be unexplained wealth, sell them. Third, look at the tax records of public officials with extravagant lifestyles, such as those owning mansions and expensive sport utility vehicles, and compel them to pay the correct taxes.

As they say, there are many ways to skin a cat. But selling government assets, although the easiest way to raise money for the government and for some enterprising powerbrokers, should be the last option, to be resorted to only after exhausting other available remedies.

—EFREN H. MERCADO,
Mercado Compound,
Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City

Congress told to go slow on Milk Code

THE PROPOSED MILK CODE WILL SOON BE discussed in the House of Representatives. It aims to prohibit mothers and hospitals from feeding newborn infants (0-6 months) nothing else except breast milk.

May I call the attention of our legislators and of the public to the hazards of this proposed legislation. There are limits to breastfeeding:

- When there is absence, delay or insufficiency of breast milk supply.
- Anatomical defects of nipples, like underdevelopment, inversion or painful cracking.
- During illness, e.g, fever, hepatitis, AIDS, TB and other infections.
- When a mother is the breadwinner and is not available at breastfeeding time.
- When delivery is by caesarian section and the mother has both arms compromised and cannot hold the baby for breastfeeding.
- When the mother's milk contains substances or medications not recommended for infants.
- When proteins in the breast milk cause allergic reactions to the infant.
- When the mother dies at childbirth and the baby survives.

Likewise there are conditions under which infants should not take breast milk:

- Anatomical defects, e.g, cleft palate, choanal atresia and other defects preventing sucking procedure.
- When the infants have gastro-intestinal allergy to breast milk proteins, producing nausea, vomiting, colic and diarrhea.
- When infants have to be isolated from the mothers and have to be confined in the nursery for continued intensive care due to premature birth or respiratory distress syndrome.
- Breastfeeding up to three years may invite problems of dental and oral development, e.g., teeth disarrangement and hollowness of the palate. Prolonged breastfeeding prolongs babyhood and invites abnormal child-mother dependence. It may also deprive newborns of adequate breast milk—when siblings feed on one source. Normally, the breast milk supply does not last up to three years.

—SANTIAGO A. DEL ROSARIO, M.D.

Excuse for emergency powers?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT LAST WEEK'S bombings?

1. Look at the materials used and how they were fabricated. They were obviously not funded by the extreme Left or extreme Right.

2. You can sense some hesitation from how they timed and positioned the explosions. These guys are not cold-blooded killers (so again you can rule out the Left and Right extremists).

3. You can sense that the explosions were calibrated to be just "enough" to qualify technically as "bomb explosions" without any risk of destroying valuable public property or causing harm to the public—something that would not harm the peso but still merit media coverage as "acts of terror," as pronounced by the President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor.

4. If it's not the Right or the Left, who's in the middle of it?

5. Don't be surprised if these bombings will be used by the administration to (a) put pressure on the Senate; (b) push Charter change; or worse, (c) declare martial law.—**Rio F. Bautista (via e-mail)**

* * *

When the TV stations report the killings of members or leaders of Left-leaning organizations, they project the idea that those killed were communists. How did they know? For all we know, the victims were community leaders whose only desire was to see the members of their community enjoy the benefits of having a democratic (supposedly) government.

Please don't jump to the conclusion that those who were killed were leftists or communists. There have been no investigations that proved they were communists or Left-leaning activists.

We should say, "Another Filipino is gunned down." That's more like it.—**Queency Ott, New York (via e-mail)**

* * *

What, many among our policemen are living below the poverty line? But Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, being an economist, should be able to solve the problem if she really wants to. Why, even a mere snap of her fingers could solve the problem, just like the shortage in classrooms. All she's got to do is order the National Economic and Development Authority to lower the poverty line and almost every Filipino and Filipina will suddenly belong to the rich class!

Ah, my hapless land...—**Ilving Tabios-Zamora, California (via e-mail)**

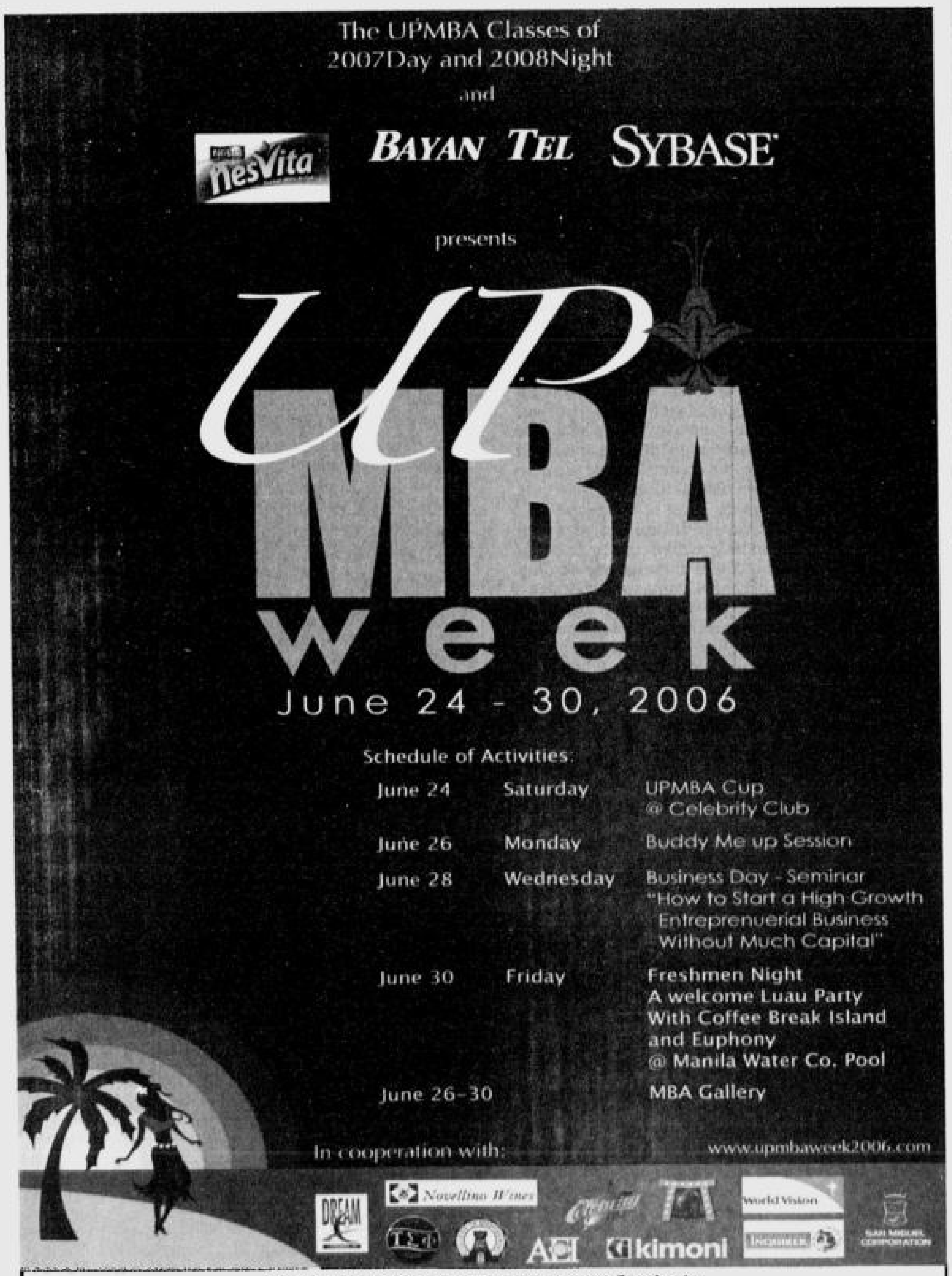
* * *

SEALS—Come on, do they really call them that? How in the world can they name them after a unit that is as respectable as the (US) Navy SEALS?

Let's face it, the enemy has more fire power and more logistical support than the Philippine military. The Philippine military does not even have a boat, much less a speedboat. I'm a bit dumbfounded after hearing that such a unit exists in the Philippine military.

I am a former member of a US expeditionary force. It's just kind of cheesy and lame to name your special-ops unit after the SEALS. You should be ashamed of yourselves. It only shows that outwardly you drive Western influence out, but inwardly you embrace them.

Make up your mind, Philippines. Either you're in or you're out.—**Tedd Mann, Los Angeles, California (via e-mail)**



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UP MBA week

June 24 - 30, 2006

Schedule of Activities:

June 24	Saturday	UPMBA Cup @ Celebrity Club
June 26	Monday	Buddy Me up Session
June 28	Wednesday	Business Day - Seminar "How to Start a High Growth Entreprenuerial Business Without Much Capital"
June 30	Friday	Freshmen Night A welcome Luau Party With Coffee Break Island and Euphony @ Manila Water Co. Pool
June 26-30		MBA Gallery

In cooperation with: www.upmbaweek2006.com

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UP MBA Week Welcomes Freshmen Students

Most people say that graduate students don't have fun. They say they are too serious putting themselves through school that all they do is work and study. But being a grad student isn't just all that! It's also about meeting new people, making new friends and learning not just from books and teachers, but from fellow students as well. This is why the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration ushers its MBA freshmen through a week-long celebration – the first ever UP MBA Week!

The UP MBA Week kicks off with a bang on Saturday, June 24, with the 1st UP MBA Cup at the Celebrity Sports Club where students and teachers alike can meet and interact by participating in the basketball and badminton tournaments. And on June 26, Monday, MBA Freshies get to pair up with the upperclassmen for the "Buddy Me UP" session where Sophomores and Seniors get to help the newbies by giving them tips on the ins and outs of being a UP MBA student.

Wednesday, June 28, is Business Day! Aspiring entrepreneurs can learn practical tools from topnotch practitioners in the Entrepreneurship Seminar. Topics include "How to Start a High Growth Entrepreneurial Business Without Much Capital" by Engr. Mon Castillo of Innovatronix, Inc., "The Best Practices of Highly Successful Entrepreneurs" by Asenso Pinoy, and a presentation by the American Eye Institute. Visit the MBA Gallery from June 26-30 at the UP CBA lobby and be inspired by the stories of successful UP MBA graduates and see the benefits of getting your MBA degree from the country's top university.

And on Friday, June 30, upperclassmen and faculty members welcome the new batch of MBA students during the MBA Freshman Night – a welcome Luau party featuring reggae group Coffee Break Island and acoustic band Euphony. On the same night, the MBA faculty and the Dean of the College of Business Administration will conduct a formal orientation about the essentials of being in the MBA Program. Our guest keynote speaker, Mr. Filemon T. Berba of Ayala Corporation, will also be gracing the event as he delivers his insights to the future movers of the Philippine business industry. The night promises to be a fun-filled celebration with good food, good company and good music.

For more information about the UP MBA Week, visit www.upmbaweek2006.com ADVT.

AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES

1. The **AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS)** now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Security Services for the following AFP-RSBS properties as stated below:

PROJECT	LOCATION	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID DOCUMENTS (non-refundable)
Security Services for IPMO	Taguig, Metro Manila	14	P2,463,999.38	P5,000.00
Security Service for Iloilo Property	Iloilo City	10	P1,560,000.00	P3,000.00
Security Services for General Santos Property	General Santos City	7	P960,000.00	P1,000.00
Security Services for RSBS Compound	Cam Aguinaldo, Quezon City	5	P780,000.00	P1,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietosrhips, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

3 Interested parties shall submit proposal/s on any or all of the aforementioned projects. One project is equivalent to a single award or contract, separate and distinct from each other.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **AFP-RSBS** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.*

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents will be available for issuance to interested applicants from July 10, 2006 and may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount as above-stated. The method of payment will be *cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6 The *AFP-RSBS* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 28, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFPRSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**

7 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. of August 10, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *cash, check or bank guarantee* and in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted

8 Bid opening shall be on **August 10, 2006, 9:05 a.m.** at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9 Additonal information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the following address:

Bids and Awards Committee
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue,
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9114071 local 204/289/281

10. The *AFP-RSBS reserves* the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEN. FRANKLIN C. ACOSTA (Ret)**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 16 & 23, 2006)

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

EZ2
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SUERTRES
3 7 7

SIX DIGIT (All in exact order)
4 8 3 0 6 2

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
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₱26,663,929.20

Biak-na-Bato mining put to a halt

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGAIN SUSPENDED the transport of ore from the Biak-na-Bato National Park in Bulacan where marble quarrying is being opposed by the provincial government and environmentalists.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau would not issue a new ore transport permit (OTP) to Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. (RMDC) until the case lodged by Bulacan officials and antiquarrying groups is resolved, MGB regional director Angel Bravo said.

"It's suspended until the resolution of the case. We have to respect our superior," Bravo said in an interview after a forum at the Manila Pavilion yesterday.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has created a committee to investigate allegations that the RMDC did not have an environmental compliance certificate for its quarrying operations and that the acquisition of the firm's Mineral Production Sharing Agreement was anomalous.

The committee, led by MGB executive director Jeremias Dolino, held its first hearing with the representatives of RMDC, Bulacan local government and environmental groups two weeks ago.

Dolino said the committee would finish its review of the allegations next week and would submit its recommendations to Reyes, who will eventually decide whether to cancel the permits given to RMDC.

"We can make do with what we have to come up with a decision," Dolino said.

Dolino said there has been no activity inside Biak an Bato for the past two weeks, or since the investigation started.

The MGB also did not renew the OTP that allowed RMDC to transport 400 cubic meters of ore last month.

The Bulacan government also wants the DENR to recommend the restoration of the roughly 3,000-ha Biak na Bato to its previous status as a national park.

Only about 658 ha of Biak na Bato were declared a national park in 1989. Another 938 ha were declared a watershed forest reserve, 480 ha a forest reserve and 953 ha a mineral reservation.

The MPSA awarded by the DENR under former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to the RMDC allows the company to extract marble from a 330-ha area within the mineral reservation.

Reyes belied the accusation of Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz that he has become the "blatant enemy of the Filipino people" for allegedly failing to protect the Biak na Bato."

Reyes told the INQUIRER on Wednesday that if there is one individual who truly protects our environment and natural resources, it was him. "You cannot find anyone more concern in the protection of our environment more determined and serious than me," he said. *With a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

REYES

MAJ. GEN. JOVITO Palparan, tagged butcher by his critics, but military genius by his peers at the Armed Forces. TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

Palparan asks gov for 'private' talk on troop behavior

CITY OF MALOLOS—REACTING to claims of alleged abuses by his men, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. on Thursday urged Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz to meet with him so they could "talk in private" to settle their differences.

Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, also apologized to De la Cruz, the only local official protesting alleged abuses of soldiers stationed in Bulacan, for not heeding the requests of the governor for a dialogue.

But Palparan disputed the governor's report that MSgt. Rizal Hilario, alias Rollie Castillo, was his special operator in the killing of civilians and activists in Bulacan and other areas in Central Luzon.

He confirmed that Hilario, whom he called "Rollie," belonged to the 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

He described Hilario as a "*kasama sa trabaho*." "He's an ordinary soldier, but a good counter propagandist," the general said.

Hilario, he said, has done a "good job" in San Ildefonso town through "an information drive that convinced the residents there to withdraw support to the New People's Army."

Palparan said he has known and worked with Hilario since the 1990s. At that time Palparan was commander of the 24th IB in Pampanga and Bataan.

"The enemy is afraid of Rollie because he's an effective speaker," he said.

The general said the counterinsurgency campaign would succeed if the military, local governments and the business sector were united.

He said De la Cruz's demand for a pullout of his troops in Bulacan based on the alleged abuses by his men, "contradicted President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to clear the country of insurgents and end the 37-year-old communist insurgency."

He also accused De la Cruz of hiring a suspected NPA rebel, identified as Bernabe Mendiola alias Ka Ado, as her liaison and finance officer.

He said Mendiola is working at a metal ore mining firm in Barangay Camachin in Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT) town.

De la Cruz accused Palparan and his men of abducting Mendiola last month. Mendiola is still missing.

The troops of Col. Noel Clement, head of the 56th Infantry Battalion assigned to the DRT area, had an encounter with NPA rebels in Camachin last month and were surprised to see Mendiola there.

The governor won't comment on Mendiola. *Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Black bugs top concern of Sorsogon farmers

GUBAT, SORSOGON—ASH FALLS are still the least of farmers' concern here and six other towns that are being confronted with worsening black bug infestations.

Municipal agriculturist Precy Moncada said more than 90 hectares of farms were now invaded by the bugs in 24 barangays, prompting them to raise an alert.

The local agriculture office first installed light traps to kill the pests and it now uses an antibug spray called "metharhizium," a biologically-safe pesticide, she said.

The spray costs at least P35 per sachet and each hectare needs 10 sachets to effectively kill the bugs, the official added.

Moncada also suggested to farmers to gather "Mindoro frogs" and put them in the rice paddies as it was found out to be voracious black bug eaters.

The Provincial Agriculture Office said at least 700 hectares of rice lands were already infested by the pest which, it said, originated from Malaysia.

Tirso Doloiras, crop protection specialist, said rice black bugs had already spread to the towns of Prieto-Diaz, Gubat, Barcelona, Bulusan, Sta. Magdalena, Matnog, Casiguran and Sorsogon City—covering at least 71 barangays.

The official said rice plants in affected areas suffer varying degrees of bug burns, with some as high as 90 percent.

Rice black bugs attack rice stalks, sucking their juices and killing the plant in the process.

Doloiras said their office was set to start producing metharhizium, a biologically safe fungus spray to combat the infestation.

"Now that black bugs have reached our province, there is no hope that they can still be eradicated and they will now be part of the ecosystem like the 'golden *kuhol*,'" he said. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Study says English has small role in gov't deals

BAGUIO CITY—IF CHANGES are made in the Constitution today, experts may want to reconsider English as the second primary language should we become a federated Philippines.

A recent study on language used in provincial, municipal and barangay governance indicates that indigenous dialects have made government more accessible to grassroots people today compared to 40 years ago when English was the language of the bureaucracy.

All official Philippine documents, including legal jurisprudence, remained couched in English primarily because few officials used to have a full grasp of Filipino foundations, according to a University of the Philippines Baguio professor.

Prof. Elizabeth Calinawagan found out that English performs a far smaller role today in governance than the vernacular when she studied the government transactions of San Fernando City in La Union.

She presented her study on Wednesday during a UP Baguio forum on empowering native languages for governance.

Because the average bureaucrat finds Filipino and Ilocano more utilitarian than English, Calinawagan said she would advocate the use of regional languages instead in the operation of each state should a new Constitution reorganize the country.

The 1987 Constitution enshrines Filipino as the national language, although it also lists English as an official Philippine language.

Calinawagan said Filipinos also have great difficulty expressing thoughts on paper in their native languages because decades of school training have taught them to think in English.

But her study of how Filipino, English and Ilocano are now used in official La Union transactions, political consultations and communiqués reveals that the young embrace Tagalog and Ilocano unlike their parents' and grandparents' self-conscious grasp of the Filipino language when it was first legislated as the national language.

A CLASSROOM in Baguio City where English is still the medium of instruction. A study says the use of Filipino or local dialects in government transactions could be more effective than the use of English in government agencies. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Clash

She said her conclusions may clash with President Macapagal-Arroyo's renewed drive to restore the dominance of English by again mandating its use as the official instructional medium in schools.

"There is no doubt that English is the lingua franca (language of choice) of the world... Every Filipino will always feel its importance and relevance. The English language is an asset and not a liability. In fact this is the main reason there are so many Filipinos working abroad," she said in her lecture.

Calinawagan said English should no longer be regarded with the same prestige that divided class structures in the 1950s and 1960s.

"If you are interested in English, and you need it to migrate to America or Canada, then give it your full effort. But if you do not, then government must not force them to learn English... Mastering English must not be coerced for the wrong reasons," she said.

English is a politically-charged language in the country's history because politicians use it to "deceive" voters, and old school professionals often measure a person's intelligence by his English proficiency, Calinawagan said.

Her study reveals that English remains part of an official conversation only when government officials and their constituents discuss technical matters, which usually has no local dialect translation.

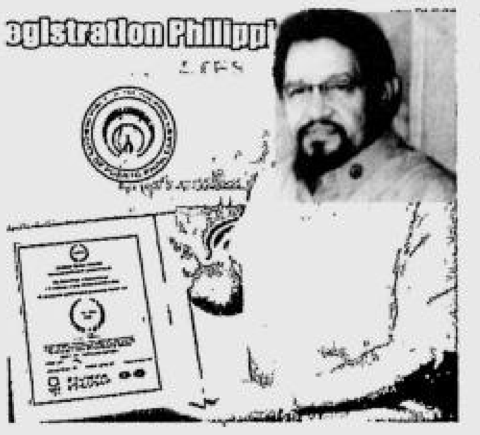
Otherwise, she said, people transact their business in a free intermingling of Filipino and the native language.

"During the 1960s, there was a point when government briefly pushed the vernacular in classroom teaching, so people in their 50s and 60s can speak and write well in Ilocano, and younger generations cannot," she said.

The gradual dominance of the vernacular in official transactions has become the standard in the last 10 years, and it has changed political dynamics.

Politicians have started speaking in the vernacular, believing they can draw people to their points of view, Calinawagan said.

But villagers have become more powerful in the last decade because they can now approach their leaders on equal footing once they converse in the same dialect to secure community projects or just simply pay municipal taxes, she said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



ISO-CERTIFIED Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn holds the ISO certification that his city got for its quality management system. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Probers see inside job in Boracay murder

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—INVESTIGATORS are looking at robbery and an inside job in Tuesday's murder of a resort owner on Boracay Island in Aklan.

An undetermined amount of cash was missing from the third floor room where the body of Araceli Villanueva-Hug, 48, was found, said Chief Insp. Jess Mendez, chief of the Boracay Special Tourist Police Office (BSTPO).

Mendez said the cashier of the resort told the police that the daily sales collections were kept by the victim inside her room after they were turned over.

"Money is definitely missing," Mendez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said police were also determining if pieces of jewelry had been taken from the room.

Hug was found dead around 10 a.m. on Tuesday in her room at the Bamboo Beach Resort, which she owned, in Barangay Manoc-Manoc near Boat Station 3 at the southern end of the island-resort.

A member of the resort staff had checked on the victim after she failed to appear for breakfast. She was found lying on the floor beside the bed wearing a shirt and denim pants with eight stab wounds.

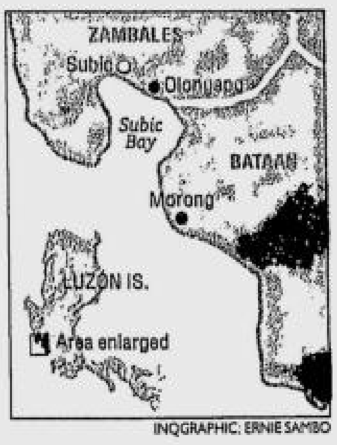
The victim is married to Swiss Paul Hug who is in Switzerland with their two children.

Her remains were taken to the Prado Funeral Homes in Barangay Caticlan, Malay town in the mainland.

100kg of 'bangus' die daily in fish kill in Subic Bay

SUBIC, ZAMBALES—LOCAL FISHermen said the continued operation of illegal fish cages within Subic Bay was the cause of a massive fish kill that hit Barangay Cawag starting Friday.

Mark Figueras, president of Samahang Pinagkaisa sa Pangisdaan (Sapsap), said water pollution, particularly odor nuisance and algal bloom caused by the proliferation of illegal fish cages, triggered the fish kill.



INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

Figueras said the heavy stocking by fish cage operators and overfeeding proved deadly to the fish, mostly *bangus* (milkfish), which were being cultured in more than 150 fish cages in the waters of Sitio Matang-eb in Cawag.

Each steel or fiberglass cage measures 20 meters by 20 meters.

Local fishermen said about 100 kilograms of *bangus* have been dying daily since the fish kill started on Friday. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has yet to estimate the losses.

Remedios Ongtangco, BFAR regional director, earlier warned fishermen of a possible occurrence of fish kill in Barangay Cawag after the BFAR conducted a water quality and underwater assessment of the area in January.

Ongtangco urged cage owners to follow proper stocking density during culture period to avoid fish kills.

A recent assessment by BFAR showed that silt deposits in the fish cages reached 1.3 meters.

Figueras said cage owners had no permits from BFAR and the Environmental Management Bureau of the regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources, although owners were allowed to operate through resolutions issued by the Subic government.

Ongtangco said permits and licenses to operate fish cages and other similar structures in municipal waters should be secured from the local government.

Councilor Ruben Gaduang, chair of Subic council's committee on environment and natural resources, said he would ask the council to nullify all resolutions on the operations of fish cages in the town. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SAHOD NG MANGGAGAWA WAG BARATIN!!
PM
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INUTIL! BUWAGIN!

MILITANT groups demanding wage increases hold protests in Manila. The Left is at the forefront of wage hike demands. A bill was filed in Congress legislating a P125 wage hike but its fate is uncertain.
JOAN BONDOC

E. Visayas board starts wage review

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE REGIONAL TRIPARtite Wages and Productivity Board in Eastern Visayas will hold public consultations and a public hearing starting this week to review minimum wage rates in the region.

Forter Puguon, wage board chair, said the consultation will start on Friday in Ormoc City and in Catbalogan, Samar on June 26.

A public hearing on the wage issue would be held here in Tacloban City on July 4.

Puguon, also Department of Labor and Employment regional director, urged interested parties to file their position papers at the wage board on or before the scheduled dates of consultations and hearings.

So far, the regional wage board has not received any petition for wage increases from the labor sector in the region.

Florencio Aguilos, wage board secretary, said the board would conduct the consultations on its own initiative after looking into various economic indicators like the inflation rate, peso's purchasing power, consumer price index and oil price increases.

"We reviewed all these things and as a result we found that there's a need to review and consult with our stakeholders the wage issue," he told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

In a meeting last June 16, Aguilos said wage board members decided that there was a need to review the current wage levels in the region following increases in oil prices and prices of basic commodities.

He said after the public consultations and hearing, the board would convene again to assess the results.

Eastern Visayas has more than 1.5 million workers in Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar.

In June 2005, the board approved an P11-increase in the cost of living allowance that was integrated into the basic pay.

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GMA asked to suspend land reform

STOP
STOP POLITICAL KILL

MILITANTS and peasant groups rally near Malacañang expressing outrage against political killings and what they said was the failure of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. REM ZAMORA

BACOLOD CITY—A GROUP OF BUSINESS and labor leaders and government officials in Negros Occidental on Wednesday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to suspend the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) said in a resolution sent to Ms Arroyo that it viewed with deep concern the manner in which the program is being implemented in Negros Occidental as it has been plagued by serious problems "that impede, rather than advance the spirit and intent of Republic Act No. 6657," or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

The council said that among the more serious problems are the continuing conflicts among those directly involved in agrarian reform that sometimes result in bloody and violent confrontations, delayed payments of what is due landowners, and slow collection of amortization.

It also cited lack of government support for beneficiaries to enable them to become self-reliant.

The council likewise referred to the "improper distribution" of land covered by land reform on account of "wrong priorities" and alleged "illegal acts" committed by government agencies.

The council was apparently referring to complaints raised by landowners that farmer-beneficiaries were installed on their land by the Department of Agrarian Reform even before the identification of beneficiaries have been completed, before the payments were made, and while the ownership dispute is still being litigated in court.

Unless these problems are addressed "there can be no real and effective industrial peace as a vehicle in promoting national growth, development and social justice," the resolution said.

TIPC-Negros Occidental head Reynaldo Novero Sr. said the group submitted its recommendations to the President, as it is one of the functions of the council provided for in Executive Order 49. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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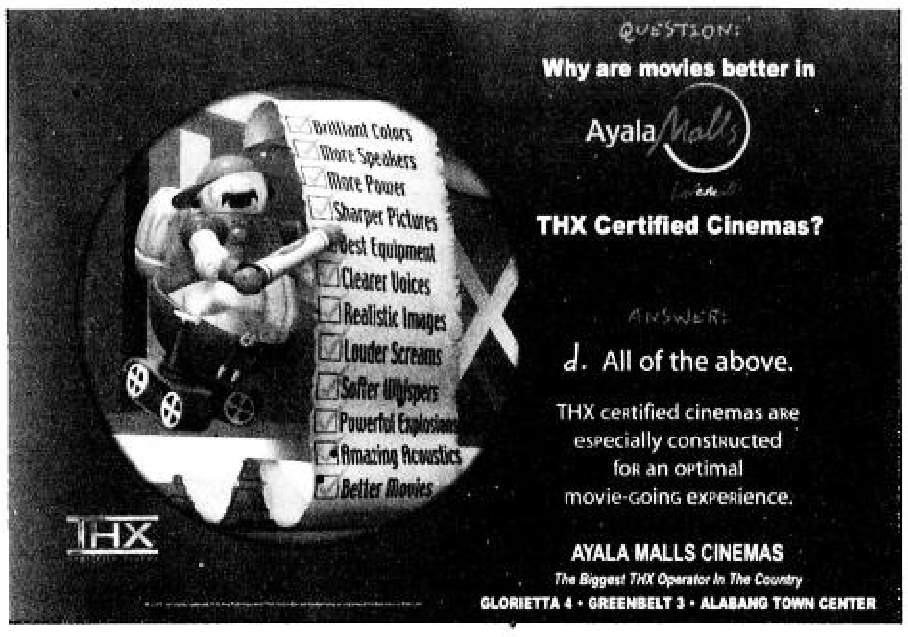

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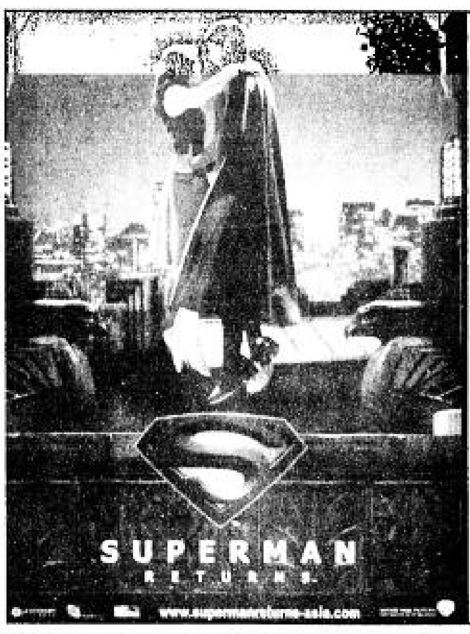

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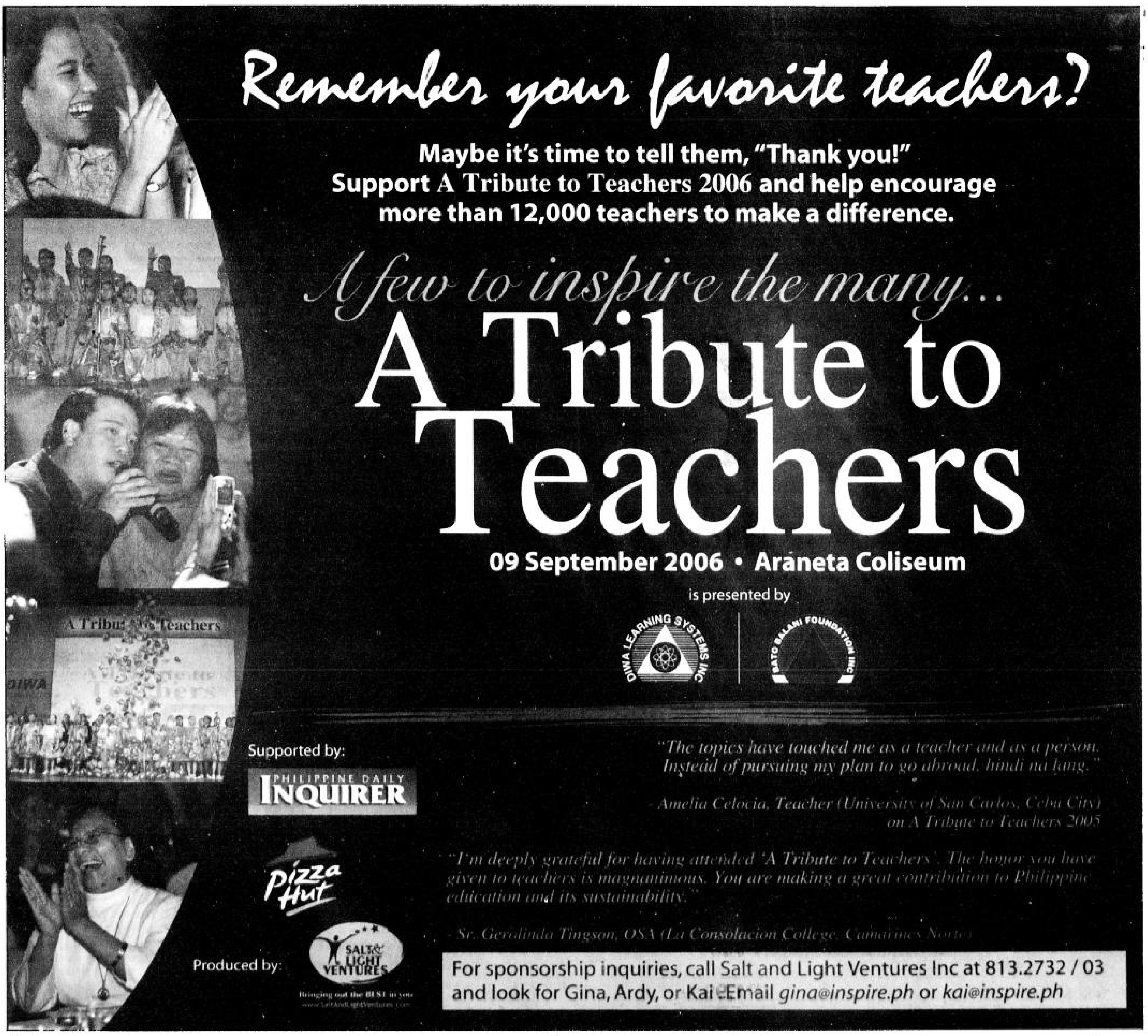
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One Voice: We need reforms, not Cha-cha

By Leila B. Salaverria

A NEW CITIZENS' GROUP THAT COUNTS among its members two former chairs of the Commission on Elections, Catholic bishops and other influential figures yesterday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and its proponents to scrap the people's initiative to amend the Constitution, saying the time would be better spent pursuing reforms in government and society.

The organization, calling itself "One Voice" and describing itself as nonpartisan, yesterday revealed its 5-point proposal for ending the prevailing political impasse, which includes halting the "legally flawed" people's initiative.

Under the proposal, the group wants the 2007 elections to be held as scheduled to serve as an "indirect referendum" on the term of President Arroyo, and the immediate initiation of electoral reforms.

Collective effort

One Voice said that, if necessary, a constitutional convention could be held after the 2007 elections. It also called for a social reform program to be instituted immediately, and for the initiation of a collective effort to rebuild the trustworthiness of the country's democratic institutions.

"All of us in One Voice agree that most of the solutions that have so far been offered to address the political situation—including the people's initiative—appear to serve personal or group interests more than the common good," said convenor Christian Monsod, a former Comelec chair.

One Voice member Manuel Quezon III, an INQUIRER columnist, said the government, under the present Constitution, had enough powers to solve the country's problems like the need to modernize the electoral process, reform the educational system, improve health care, protect human rights, halt corruption and others.

The group also said there should be a collective effort to rebuild trust in government institutions, leaders and ourselves. Quezon said this would entail teaching the people to discuss and find ways to solve problems rather than skirting them.

The group also plans to conduct discussions in communities to explain the problems and issues facing the nation, and to recruit members to its ranks.

Monsod said the group hoped to stop the people's initiative by appealing directly to the public and to the President and the project's proponents.

People's initiative

The people's initiative, or campaign to amend the Constitution by collecting the signatures of a set number of voters, is being pushed by the administration and a supportive group calling itself Sigaw ng Bayan.

One Voice, in its proposal, questioned whether the people's initiative was genuine. Monsod pointed out the proposed amendments to the Constitution, like changing the form of government to a parliamentary form, would only bring about adverse effects.

He said a parliamentary system would concentrate power in the hands of those who already had it and would take away the power of the people to directly elect the president.

He warned that fusing the executive and legislative branches would nullify the check and balance system inherent in the presidential system and would weaken the Supreme Court as a check against the abuse of power.

Besides, Monsod said, the form of government was not material to whether the country could initiate reforms. He said changing the economic provisions in the Constitution was not critical to foreign investors, but rather it was the country's political stability, human resources and infrastructure that were important.

The people's initiative is also legally flawed because of the lack of an enabling law for it, Monsod said.

"We believe it's up against very difficult legal problems… meanwhile, we're wasting time. We hope we'll concentrate on electoral reforms," he said.

Modernization of Comelec

To have credible elections, Monsod said the Comelec should be reformed. He said it should have at least four independent commissioners and recommended that the last two vacancies in the agency be filled with people of "unquestioned integrity and competence" who should come from disciplines other than the law.

He also said there should be a cost-effective and suitable modernization program for the Comelec.

As for a social reform program, Monsod said it could be instituted without resorting to Charter change. It could be done by providing the poor with food, security, education and health care, implementing the agrarian reform law, conducting a serious campaign against graft and corruption and passing laws to increase the marginalized sectors' representation in Congress and local governments.

Other members of One Voice are recently resigned solicitor general and former Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Angel Lagdameo, who said he joined the group in his capacity as archbishop of Jaro (Iloilo); Bishops Oscar Cruz, Deogracias Iñiguez, Ramon Arguelles, Antonio Ledesma, Leonardo Legaspi, Orlando Quevedo and Florentino Lavarias;

Monsod's wife economics professor Solita Monsod; Raul Concepcion of Consumer and Oil Price Watch; 1986 Constitutional Commission members Fely Aquino-Arroyo, Florangel Braid and Ricardo Romulo; former Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan, and Namfrel officials Maria Corazon Akol, Baltazar Endriga, Ricardo Guevara and Augusto Lagman.

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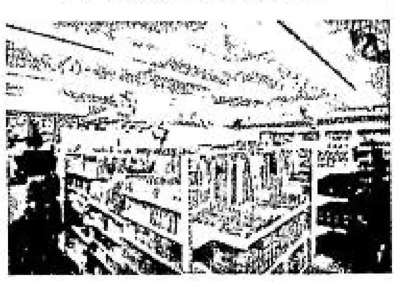
WHAT'S INSIDE



- Security beefed up in 24-hour convenience stores /A20
- Manilans most courteous in Asia, survey shows /A20
- 32 'fixers' in fake passport racket arrested at DFA /A20
- Fire hits Pasay jail's female ward /A20

Pastor, lawyer shot dead

Parishioner was target of attack in front of QC church

By DJ Yap

A PASTOR DIED IN A FUTILE ATtempt to save the life of a member of his church Wednesday evening in Quezon City.

Joselito Fidel, 47, tried to shield with his own body lawyer Evelyn Guballa, 41, from a barrage of bullets from two gunmen.

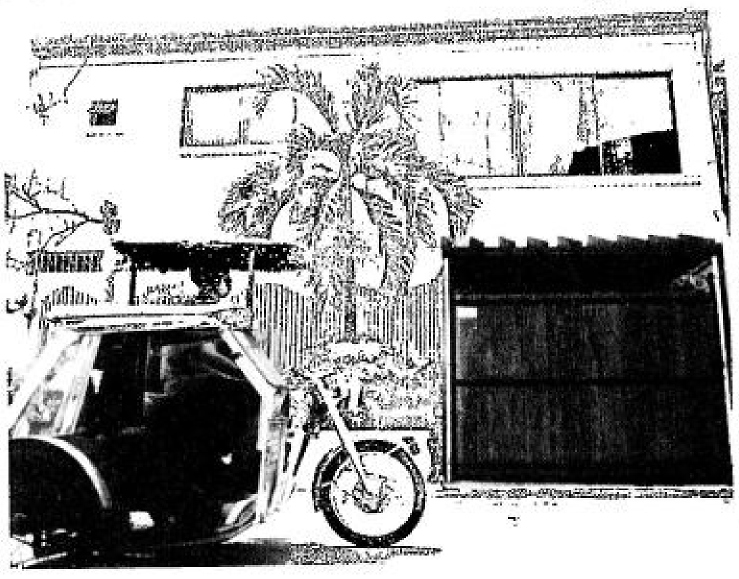
Fidel died on the spot. Guballa was rushed to the Sioson General Hospital, but died before she could be treated, case investigator SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos said.

The pastor was chatting with Guballa and other parishioners at the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church compound on 18 Lanao St., Barangay Bago Bantay after they were through with their Bible study. At 9:30 p.m., two armed men suddenly entered the compound, said Rebancos. Fidel quickly hugged Guballa when he saw the men point their .45 caliber pistols at the woman before she was shot, investigators said.

Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division chief Supt. Procopio Lipana said Guballa was the likely target.

The lawyer sustained three gunshot wounds in the body, while Fidel had six gunshot wounds in the head and body. The unidentified suspects fled after the incident.

Lipana said the motive for the killings remained a mystery. Investigators were now in touch with the victims' families who could shed light on the incident.



LAWYER Evelyn Guballa and Joselito Fidel, a pastor, had just left this house in Bago Bantay, Quezon City after attending a prayer-meeting when they were gunned down by two unidentified men Wednesday night. RAFFY LERMA

Topnotch Manilans honored tonight

MANILA MAYOR Lito Atienza will lead city residents in paying tribute to this year's Outstanding Manilans during a testimonial dinner at the Centennial Hall of the historic Manila Hotel at 7 tonight.

The conferring of the Outstanding Manilan Award, an annual undertaking of the City of Manila and part of the Araw ng Maynila celebrations, seeks to give recognition to men and women who were born, lived or studied in the city and whose achievements in their chosen profession or vocation have contributed to the development and promotion of the city.

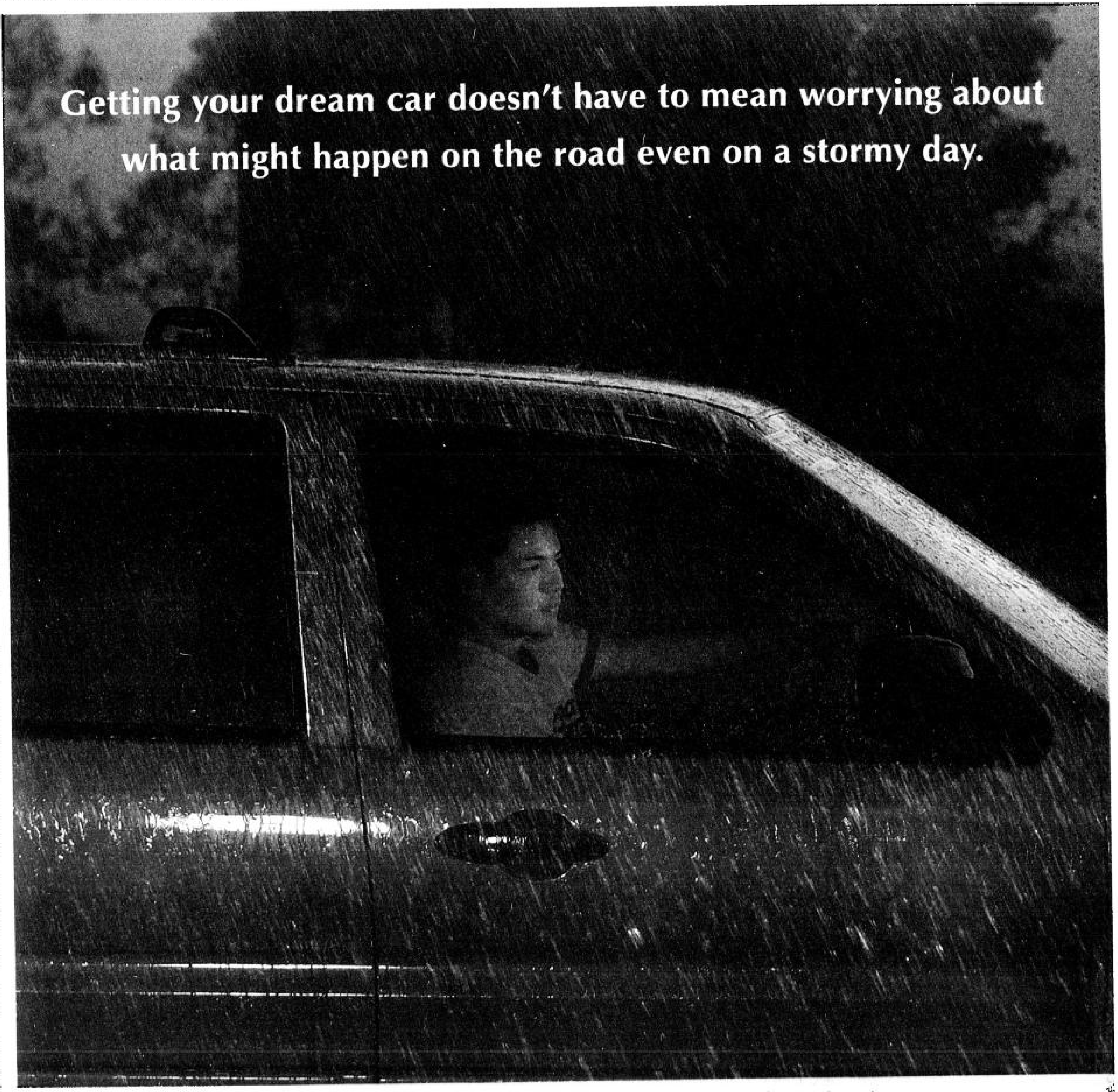
Awardees

The awardees for this year are Hon. Fidel Ramos for Public Service and Global Diplomacy; Aureo Alonzo, Fashion and Design; Federico Hizon, International Journalism; Rev. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, Spiritual Leadership; Dominique Lemay, Humanitarian Service; Carlos "Caloy" Loyzaga, Sports; Gregorio Oca, Business and Socio-civic Responsibility; Preciosa Soliven, Education; Wilson Tieng, Film and Entertainment Entrepreneurship; and Fernando Zialcita, Anthropology and Cultural Heritage.

The awards criteria and the point equivalents are as follows: Service to the City of Manila and/or the nation (55 points); Outstanding performance in their respective fields of endeavor (25 points); Proven Leadership, including moral rectitude, probity, innovativeness and pioneering spirit (15 points); and other qualities (5 points).

Speaker

The guest of honor and speaker for the ceremony tonight is Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno.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For more information, call the Auto Loan Direct Marketing hotline at 845-6777 during office hours or 89-100 (24/7), or text: AUTO<space> your landline number<space>city or province (Example: AUTO Manny Gomez 8456777 Makati City) and send it to 091789100-00, or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

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Manilans most courteous in Asia, survey shows

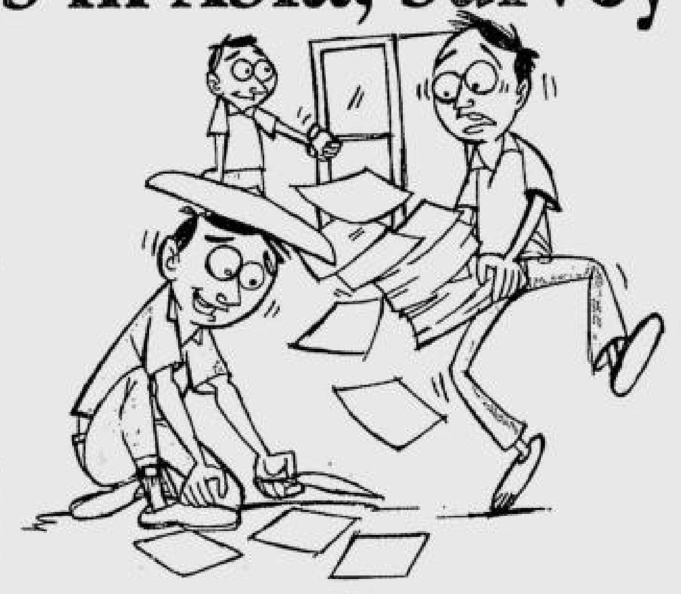
RESEARCHERS OF READER'S Digest, a popular United States-based monthly magazine, went around Metro Manila recently to conduct a Courtesy Test, staging scenarios to find out just how polite Filipinos are compared to people from 34 other cities around the world.

Manila, being one of the country's most populous cities, was chosen for staging the three scenarios. These were to see if people would hold open a door for someone, say "thank you" after making a sale, and help someone pick up papers dropped in a busy place. Manila was number 21 out of 35 in the global ranking of the test (1st being most courteous and least courteous, 35th). In Asia, the region with the poorest performances, Filipinos proved to be the most polite.

"It's not normal nowadays for a woman to hold the door open for someone of the same gender," said a Filipino woman who did not hold the door for a Reader's Digest's undercover reporter. In this particular test, Manila got a global ranking near the bottom at 33rd. Only 25 percent of those tested bothered to even hold the door slightly ajar.

For the purchasing test (whether or not customers say thank you after making a purchase), Manila scored 65 percent for a global ranking of 23rd. In Asia, it placed fourth after Jakarta, Taipei and Singapore.

The survey found that if you dropped papers on a Manila street, chances were someone would help you pick these up. Filipinos scored well at 55 percent for an impressive global ranking of 5th. "It's innate for me to be helpful and courteous. There was even a time when I helped an elderly cross the street. It really matters when your parents raised you with the proper values," said Albert Magbagay, an 18-year-old student.



Filipinos could be more helpful if not for certain concerns such as the one raised by Elizabeth Yap, a self-employed 37-year-old. "I wanted to help but I was hesitant because I was thinking, 'What if it is just another modus operandi of swindlers or pickpockets?'" she said.

Based on overall results, New Yorkers finished first, landing on the top five in all three tests. Other high-scoring cities included Zurich, Switzerland (2nd); Toronto, Canada (3rd); and Berlin, Germany. Zagreb, Croatia and São Paulo, Brazil tied for fourth place. At the bottom of the list was Mumbai, India.

Described as providing a snapshot of behavior in various countries, more than being a scientific survey, the Courtesy Test is the world's biggest real-life test of common courtesy. More than 2,000 separate tests on actual behavior were conducted.

The Courtesy Test is fully discussed in the article "How Polite Are You?", the cover story of the July 2006 issue of Reader's Digest.

Private safety group supports billboard ban

By Leila B. Salaverria

A NON-GOVERNMENT SAFETY organization supports a plan to ban billboards along national roads as they pose a hazard to motorists and other people.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is considering the ban because billboards could distract road users.

Alberto Suansing, chair of the Safety Organization of the Philippines Inc. (SOPI), said they believed the proposal would be beneficial to motorists. The non-profit SOPI conducts seminars on fire, road and industrial safety, among others.

"We should regulate billboards because they pose a safety hazard, especially for drivers as these could distract them and cause accidents," Suansing said in a phone interview.

Suansing, the private sector representative to the DPWH's Road Board, said he had seen for himself how billboards could divert the attention of drivers.

He said his own driver almost hit a vehicle in front of them because he had his eyes on a billboard featuring a popular female television host.

Poorly constructed billboards and advertising signs posed another risk, Suansing noted, as they could fall. Collapsing billboards, Suansing said, could damage buildings and cause harm to their occupants or affect power lines.

The DPWH's National Building Code Development Office (NBCDO) has drafted a circular that, among others, bans billboards and advertising signs within a 100 meter radius from the center of national roads and transmission lines.

The draft circular will require that billboards already located within the 100-meter radius be removed in six months.

NBCDO director Emmanuel Cuntapay said earlier the DPWH wanted to adopt Singapore's practice of making billboards face buildings instead of roads.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. enjoined DPWH regional directors and district engineers to implement the circular once approved. But he said the circular would have to be studied by the department's legal department before approval.

LPG cylinder stove causes fire in Pasay jail

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A KITCHEN FIRE CAUSED PANIC yesterday morning among inmates in the Pasay City Jail's female ward. No one was hurt in the incident.

A newly bought liquefied petroleum gas Super Kalan cylinder single stove ignited shortly after 10 a.m. while the dormitory's 96 residents were having an early lunch, jail warden Chief Insp. Ma. Irene Esquinas told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

She said the fire started when an inmate turned it on to cook their meals.

Esquinas said the vehicle that delivered the cylinder stove had just left when the incident occurred. "The tank is apparently defective," she said.

Esquinas added, "The inmates immediately panicked, shouting 'fire, fire'."

Esquinas used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire that lasted less than a minute.

By the time the firemen came, the inmates were mopping the wet floor.

The fire, if not controlled immediately, could have trapped inmates as it was located between the jail's only doorway and the three detention cells.

But the thick smoke sent people in nearby facilities scurrying for safety.

The female dormitory is adjacent to the Pasay City Criminal Investigation Division, the city jail's male dormitory that houses about 600 inmates, and the Pasay City Jail Youth Home. The Pasay High School is also located nearby.

FEMALE DORM

A PORTABLE gas stove lies abandoned in front of the female inmates' cell in Pasay City jail. The detainees were cooking their meals when the stove suddenly burst into flames. The fire was put out by a quick-thinking jail warden.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Security beefed up in South Metro stores

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A DAY AFTER ROBBERS RANsacked two drugstores in southern Metro Manila, police beefed up security measures in areas where 24-hour convenience stores and pharmacies are located.

Southern Police District Director Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia yesterday instructed all police commanders to deploy additional mobile patrols to keep an eye on all establishments operating 24 hours a day in the southern part of the metropolis—after robbers raided another Mercury Drugstore branch, this time in Makati City.

Garcia said about four armed men declared a heist at the drugstore on Enrique Street corner Zobel Roxas Avenue at 8:50 p.m. on Wednesday, or shortly before the store's closing time.

According to witnesses, the robbers ran off on board a red Kia Pregio with a still undetermined amount of money they stole from the drugstore and the lone security guard's service firearm.

The incident occurred barely 15 hours after six men ransacked a Mercury drugstore branch in Parañaque City.

"The two incidents were probably the work of the same group based in Las Piñas City or Cavite," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Garcia also disclosed that the police had already identified the group behind the two consecutive robbery incidents. But he withheld the name of the gang so as not to preempt their ongoing operation.

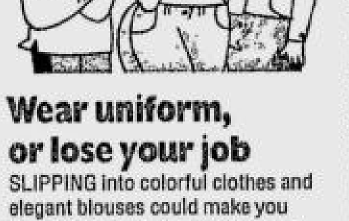
Extra effort

Garcia will sit down next week with security managers of round-the-clock establishments in the area to discuss security measures that need to be implemented.

"We will encourage them to exert extra effort in protecting their establishments because based on the two robbery incidents, the guards were easily disarmed," he said.

He also pointed out that establishments with only one security guard made them an easy prey for robbers and holdup gangs.

METROBRIEFS



Wear uniform, or lose your job

SLIPPING into colorful clothes and elegant blouses could make you look hip and trendy. But if you are working at the Pasig City Hall, it could cost you your job. Pasig City Administrator Reynaldo Dionisio has warned employees at the City Hall that they could face sanctions—even dismissal—if they do not wear the prescribed working clothes. Dionisio said they had noticed that many city employees had been "wearing the wrong uniform, incomplete uniforms or no uniform at all. This speaks negatively of the image and professionalism we are projecting to the transacting public." The violations continued even with previous memorandums and reminders about wearing the proper uniform, Dionision added. The new memorandum, which took effect on Monday, applies to the 3,843 regular and contractual employees of the city government. First-time offenders will only get a reprimand, but if they are caught dressed improperly for the second time, they would be suspended up to a month. Violators could even lose their year-end benefits and other allowances. Third time offenders will be dismissed from the service, Dionisio added. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Fight crime instead

NAVOTAS MAYOR Toby Tiangco shot down the proposal Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to utilize barangay officials in the government's all out war against the Communist Party of the Philippines, saying the plan would expose them to danger. "They are no match to these people in case something happens because they are not trained for things like this," Tiangco said in reaction to Puno's proposal. The interior secretary had proposed that barangay officials particularly the barangay *tanod* or watchman , be deputized to assist police in the campaign against insurgency. In Puno's proposal, the barangay officials would not be armed and would only be asked to help government efforts in educating the community against the insurgents. Tiangco said barangay officials could instead be tapped in the fight against crime in their area and provided with more training on how to spot a would-be snatcher or robber. "Instead of utilizing the barangay officials for other purposes, they could be used to to fight criminals preying on our residents," Tiangco said. Expenses for the training could be shared by the town or city government and funded by the barangay. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

32 'fixers' arrested

THIRTY-TWO alleged "fixers" who have been allegedly charging passport applicants P12,000 in additional fees for processing travel documents have been arrested by the Southern Police District (SPD) in a special operation against "fixers" on Tuesday, after a month-long police undercover operation. "It was the Department of Foreign Affairs, through Gen. Ace Lactao, DFA security officer, who requested our assistance," said SPD Director Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia. The undercover operatives were able to acquire passports from the alleged "fixers," seven of them women, for additional fees ranging from P12,000 to P15,000 without the documents required by the DFA, he reported. Suspects Lita Llamudo and Linda Ramos were arrested while allegedly accepting marked money from an undercover agent, he said. Among those arrested were Dominador Militante, Reynaldo Sabucojan, Reynaldo Awa-ao, Rolly Ventura, Ronnie Gapate, Alejandro Remolino, Antonio Palibino and Noel Ventura. All 32 suspects will be charged with estafa and for violation of the Philippine Passport Act in the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Telephone No. 082-221-9400 (local 204 and 233) / Fax: 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee-B (BAC-B), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract: Exploratory Well Drilling of Riverside Production Well No. 2
Location: Los Amigos, Tugbok District, Davao City
Brief Description: 250mmØ borehole for 500m depth exploratory well drilling, 200m depth well utilization with gravel pack and 18m depth cement grout with 1m clay seal for sanitary seals. 650mmØ upper borehole with 450mmØ x 66 lm. Blank casing, 450mmØ lower borehole with 250mmØ stainless screen/ blank casing combination. Rotary Drilling Method.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Php 4,859,954.82
Contract Duration : 149 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-B will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-B activities is as follows:

BAC-B Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 16-30, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 16-30, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 17-July 7, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 10-28, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 17-August 04, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	August 9, 2006; 2:00 p.m.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 23, 2006; 2:30 p.m.

The BAC-B will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms thru the BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the Asst. General Manager for Operations, Bajada, Davao City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC-B at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC-B to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 2,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) WILLIAM V. GUILLEN
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-B

(PDI–June 16 & 23, 2006)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Name of Project: TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Brief Description of WORKS: ELECTRICAL REHABILITATION OF NITVET/OTI FACILITIES
ADB Loan Number: 1750-PHI
OPEC Loan Number: 8192-PHI

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-financed with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP), and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this credit, together with the GOP counterpart funds, for payments under the contract for **Electrical Rehabilitation of NITVET/OTI Facilities.**
2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Electrical Rehabilitation of NITVET/OTI Facilities. Completion of Works is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from Contractor's Receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in *"Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans".*
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee of TESDA Central Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday) starting June 19, 2006.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,000.00 or its equivalent in US Dollars. The method of payment will be in cash or check payable to TESDA, said payment to be acknowledged through an official government receipt (O.R.). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on or before June 19, 2006.
7. The TESDA Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible Bidders on July 03, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the address given elow.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before August 02, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, cashier or certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in the amount equivalent to 1% of the total bid price and Bank Guarantee in the amount equivalent to 1.5% of the total bid price payable to TESDA or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid Opening shall be on August 02, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chose to attend.
9. Completion of Works is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from Contractor's receipt of the NTP.
10. TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SANTIAGO M. YABUT JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
(Deputy Director General, Field Operations)
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Tel. No. 817-40-76 to 80 and 888-5798
Fax No.: 817-90-40
E-mail : psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO M. YABUT, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 16 & 23, 2006)

Earth hottest in 400 years

Study says humans to blame for global warming

WASHINGTON—THE EARTH IS THE hottest it has been in at least 400 years, probably even longer.

The US National Academy of Sciences, reaching that conclusion in a broad review of scientific work requested by Congress, reported Thursday that the "recent warmth is unprecedented for at least the last 400 years and potentially the last several millennia."

A panel of top climate scientists told lawmakers that the Earth is running a fever and that "human activities are responsible for much of the recent warming." Their 155-page report said average global surface temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere rose about 1 degree during the 20th century.

The report was requested in November by the chairman of the House Science Committee, Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, a New York Republican, to address naysayers who question whether global warming is a major threat.

Last year, when the House Energy and Commerce Committee chairman, Rep. Joe Barton, a Texas Republican, launched an investigation of three climate scientists, Boehlert said Barton should try to learn from scientists, not intimidate them.

President George W. Bush's administration also has maintained that the threat is not severe enough to warrant new pollution controls that the White House says would have cost 5 million Americans their jobs.

Climate scientists Michael Mann, Raymond Bradley and Malcolm Hughes had concluded the Northern Hemisphere was the warmest it has been in 2,000 years. Their research was known as the "hockey-stick" graphic because it compared the sharp curve of the hockey blade to the recent uptick in temperatures and the stick's long shaft to centuries of previous climate stability.

The National Academy scientists concluded that the Mann-Bradley-Hughes research from the late 1990s was "likely" to be true, said John "Mike" Wallace, an atmospheric sciences professor at the University of Washington and a panel member. The conclusions from the '90s research "are very close to being right" and are supported by even more recent data, Wallace said. *AP*

San Andreas fault seen set for huge quake

LOS ANGELES/LONDON — THE southern end of the San Andreas fault near Los Angeles, which has not had a major rupture for more than 300 years, is under immense stress and could produce a massive earthquake, a new study said on Wednesday.

But exactly when that quake will take place cannot be predicted, the scientist who conducted the study published in the British journal Nature said in an interview with Reuters.

"The fault is accumulating stress at a high rate, but this does not suggest that a rupture is imminent," said Yuri Fialko, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, California. "When the quake will happen nobody knows."

His study found that, given average annual movement rates in other areas of the fault, there could be enough pent-up energy in the southern end to trigger a cataclysmic jolt of up to 10 meters.

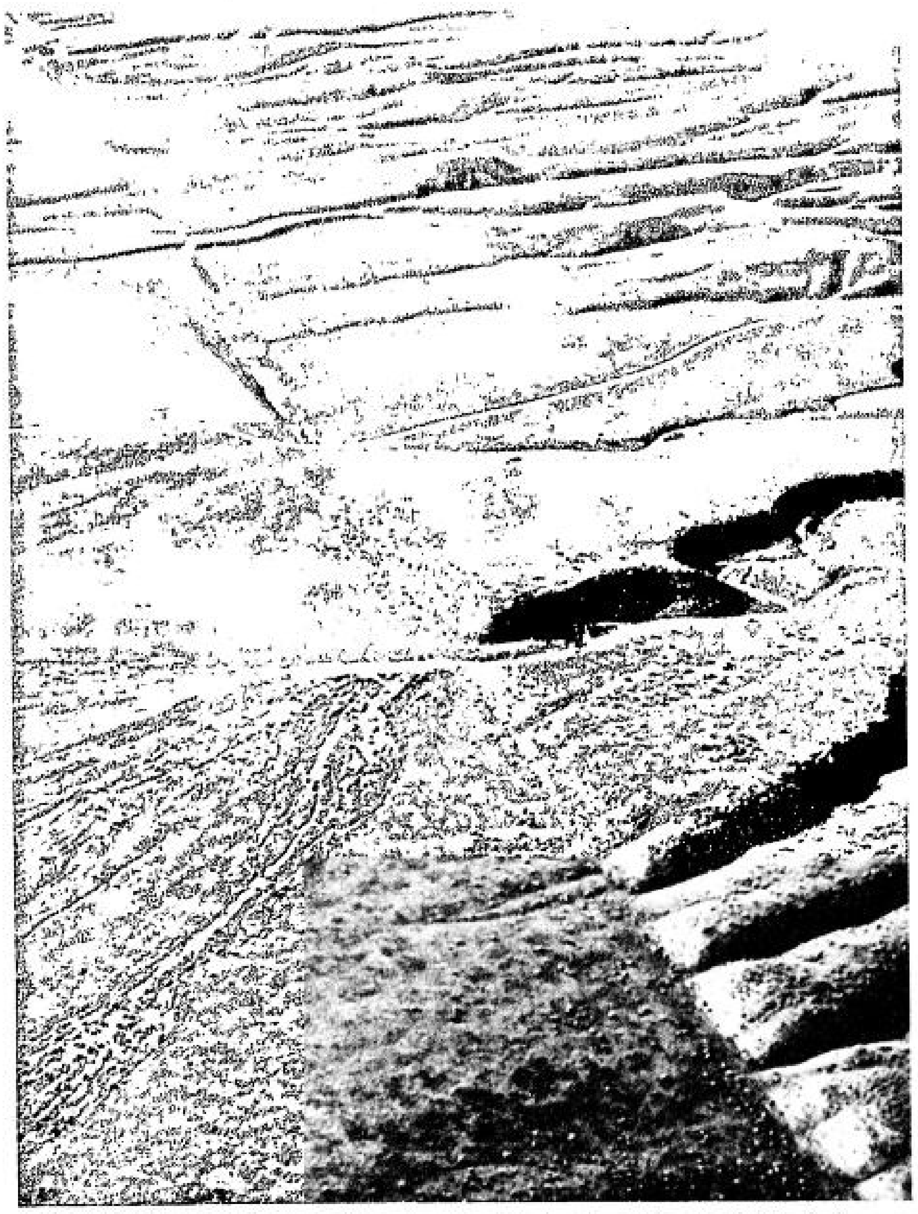
"This is new evidence that tells us the same story that we have known for a while," said Scott Brandenberg, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles school of engineering. "It's a reminder that we need to be ready for it when it happens."

Fialko said his data taken by satellite is more complete than previous studies because measurements were taken every 20 meters instead of at ground stations 10 km apart.

"The observed strain rates confirm that the southern section of the San Andreas fault may be approaching the end of the interseismic phase of the earthquake cycle," he wrote in the science journal Nature.

A sudden lateral movement of seven to 10 meters would be among the largest ever recorded.

According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake that destroyed San Francisco in 1906 was produced by a sudden movement of the northern end of the fault of up to 6.4 meters. *Reuters*



THE SAN Andreas fault on the Carrizo Plain in California. The southern end of the fault near Los Angeles, which has been still for more than two centuries, is under immense stress and could produce a massive quake at any moment, a scientist has announced. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

New diabetes drugs

EVEN AS DIABETES rates reach epidemic levels worldwide, four new drugs are generating optimism among doctors who specialize in treating the disease, as well as Wall Street analysts who view diabetes care as a huge and growing market. New drugs alone will not reverse rising rates of Type 2 diabetes, a condition that affects about 20 million Americans and is closely tied to obesity and lack of physical activity. And doctors caution that for the foreseeable future, diabetes will remain a progressively worsening disease that can cause devastating complications. But doctors say the new drugs are important additions to the treatment arsenal because they work differently from existing diabetes medicines and have relatively mild side effects. One of the four treatments, Byetta, given by injection, is already on the market. Another, Exubera; an inhalable form of insulin, has been approved and will reach pharmacies next month. The other two, Galvus and Januvia, both taken as pills, are awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration, which analysts expect by early next year. "There's cause for tremendous optimism," said Dr. John Buse, the director of diabetes center at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and the vice president of the American Diabetes Association. "We have the drugs to basically control diabetes in 90 percent-plus of patients." *NYT*

Saddam lawyer kidnapped, killed

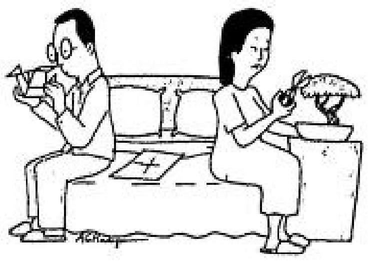
SADDAM AP

BAGHDAD—More than 100 employees of Iraq's ministry of industry were kidnapped by gunmen north of Baghdad as they left work Wednesday in a brazen reminder of the country's dire security situation. The abduction came on the same day the body of one of deposed leader Saddam Hussein's lawyers was found in the capital after he was kidnapped and murdered. Workers at the Hateen and Nasr factories in the restive town of Taji, north of Baghdad, were ambushed and abducted by at least 50 gunmen who had arrived in five minibuses, a security source said. "The employees took their seats on the buses that were waiting for them as usual," when armed men appeared aboard a number of mini-buses, the source said. "Groups of four to five gunmen (then) took control of the buses and drove them to an unknown destination," he said, adding that the occupants of one bus overpowered their hijackers and drove to Baghdad to report what had happened. Khamis al-Obeidi, a lawyer representing Saddam and seven of his former cohorts in their trial for crimes against humanity, was found shot in the head after being kidnapped from his Baghdad home. He was the third defense attorney to be slain since October start of the trial for the massacre of 148 Shiites in the 1980s. *AFP*

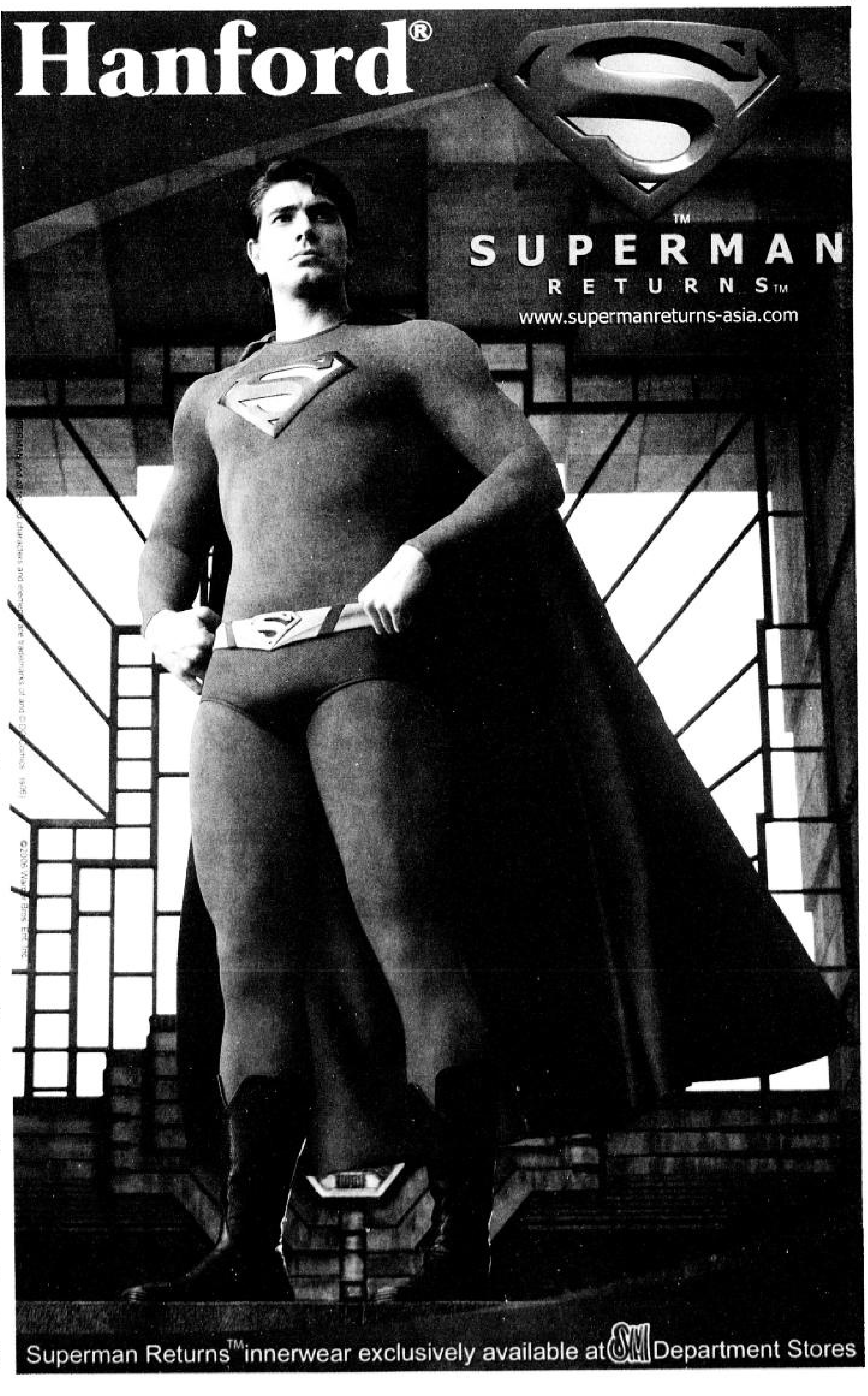
Botched Israeli air strike kills 2 in Gaza

GAZA—Two Palestinians were killed and 13 others wounded on Wednesday in the latest of a series of botched Israeli missile strikes against Gaza militants. Israel, which has faced international criticism over the attacks, said it would continue air strikes to try to stop Palestinian factions from firing rockets into the Jewish state. The latest strike, which killed a man and a woman, brought to 14 the number of civilians killed in recent air attacks. Palestinian bystanders said the target appeared to have been a car carrying members of the Islamic Jihad group in the militant stronghold of Khan Younis. But a missile slammed into a house. The gunmen escaped unharmed. Among those wounded in the strike were a pregnant woman and four children. *Reuters*

Falling Japan birth rate due to lack of sex



TOKYO—More sex. That's what one expert says is needed to solve Japan's baby shortage. "Japanese people simply aren't having sex," Dr. Kunio Kitamura, director of the Japan Family Planning Association, was quoted as saying by the Japan Times, an English language daily. An association survey of 936 people between the ages of 16 and 49 showed 31 percent had not had sex for more than a month "for no particular reason"—a condition known as "sexless." Japan's fertility rate—the average number of children a woman bears in her lifetime—fell to an all-time low of 1.25 last year. Demographers say a rate of 2.1 is needed to keep a population from declining. Japan came last among 41 nations in a poll last year by condom manufacturer Durex, with lovers there having sex just 45 times a year compared to a global average of 103 times a year. Kitamura said that while many men in workaholic Japan are simply too "stressed out" from their jobs to have enough energy for sex, many other couples simply do not have sex regularly. In the association's survey, 44 percent of the people who said they weren't having much sex felt that having a relationship with the opposite sex was "very tiresome" or "tiresome." *Reuters*



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

China concerned about Nokor launch

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—CHINA issued its strongest public statement of concern yet Thursday against North Korea over a possible long-range missile launch, while Pyongyang warned of clashes in the skies as it accused US spy planes of repeated illegal intrusions.

Beijing is the North's last major ally and key benefactor, and Washington has urged China to press the North to back down on its potential missile test.

"We are very concerned about the current situation," Jiang Yu, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said at a regular briefing in Beijing. "We hope all parties can do more in the interest of regional peace and stability."

Jiang said China would also "continue to make constructive efforts."

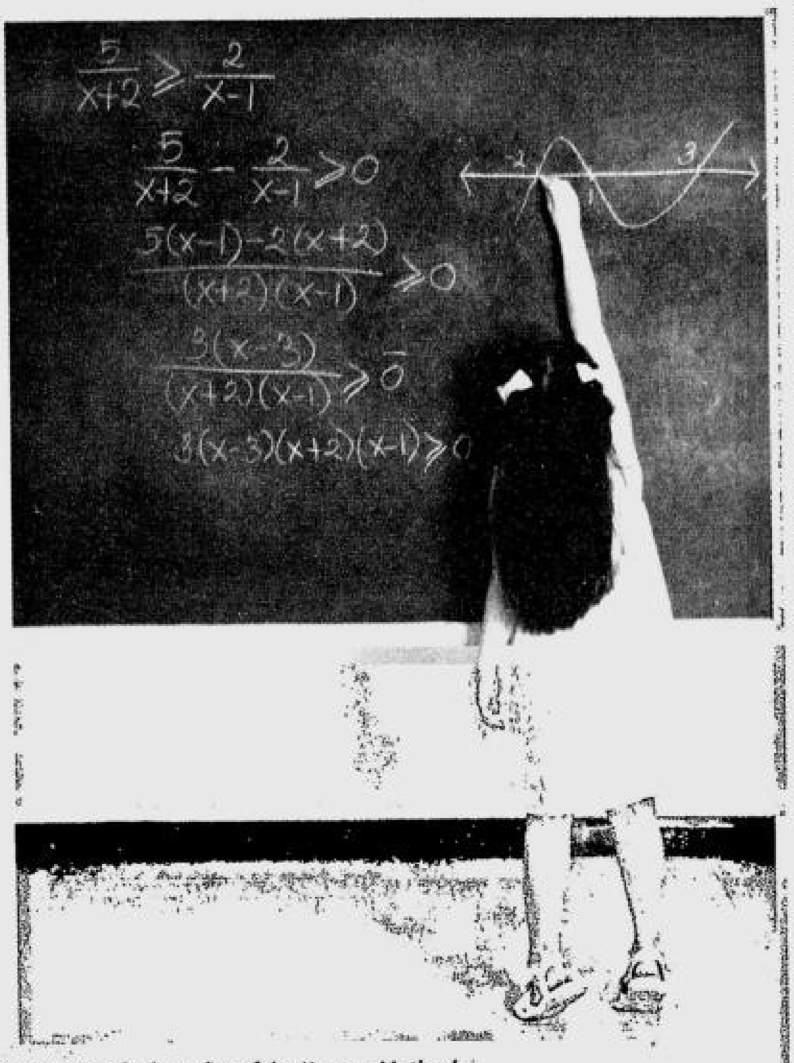
US President George W. Bush had praised China on Wednesday for "taking responsibility in dealing with North Korea."

Worries over a potential North Korean launch have grown in recent weeks after reports of activity at the North's launch site on its northeastern coast where US officials say a Taepodong-2 missile—believed capable of reaching parts of the United States—is possibly being fueled.

The North has also this week asserted its right to launch a satellite, which it claimed to do after its last long-range launch in August 1998.

A North Korean diplomat said in reported comments Wednesday that the country wanted to engage in talks with the United States on its concerns over a possible missile test.

The United States turned down the plea for a direct meeting, and instead called Wednesday on the North to return to six-nation nuclear talks, which also include China, Japan, Russia and South Korea. The North has boycotted those talks since November in anger over a US crackdown on its alleged illicit financial activity. *AP*



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-2
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WHAT'S INSIDE

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▨ **Portugal claims top spot; Argentina duplicates feat** /A26

Roach wants early end for Pacquiao foe

By Musong R. Castillo

PACQUIAO

MANNY PACQUIAO ran his routine five miles (8 kilometers) yesterday and later showed crisp and fearsome form working the bag and shadow-boxing while trying to shake off jet-lag.

With a full two weeks left before his July 2 collision with Mexican Oscar Larios at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City, his handlers expect Pacquiao to reach peak form on the day of the fight.

In fact, American trainer Freddie Roach is convinced that Larios, nicknamed "Chololo," will not be able to withstand the fury of the Filipino, whom he has instructed to go for the body.

"I've been telling him (Pacquiao) to jump on him (Larios) right away," Roach said during a short break in Pacquiao's training at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex yesterday.

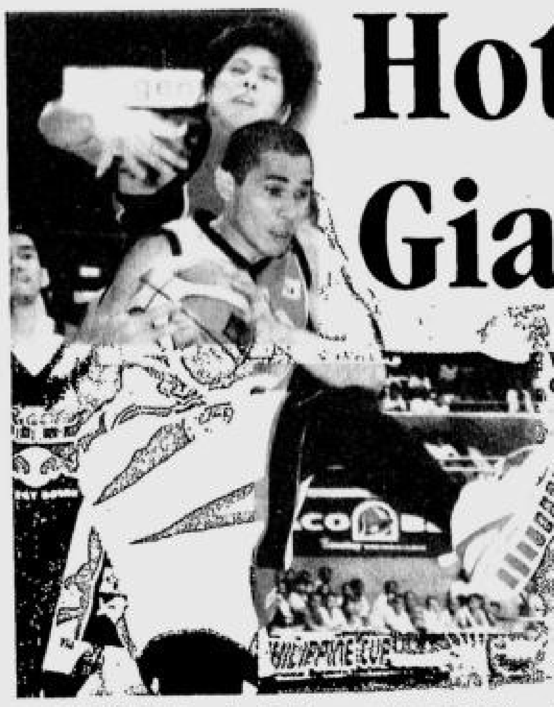
"I want Manny to go to the body early, just like what he did in the (second Erik) Morales fight," the esteemed Roach added. "That strategy works well with tall and thin guys like Larios."

Pacquiao planed in from Los Angeles Tuesday. He started his preparations more than a month ago at Roach's Wild Card gym in Hollywood.

Pacquiao, who destroyed Morales in Las Vegas last year, did not spar yesterday but will put in four rounds with Russian Rustam Nugaev today.

"Manny's more alert now," Roach said. "We know Larios too well, having watched his tapes, and what we saw in those fights, we know he'll do again in our fight."

Hot Aces try to push Giants into 3-0 hole



SAN MIGUEL'S Brandon Cablay snags the rebound off Red Bull's Rico Villanueva in Game 2. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF, OR HAVE TIM Cone and the Alaska Aces learned their lesson?

That will be known today when the Aces shoot for a huge 3-0 lead over the Purefoods Giants in their Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup semifinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Alaska and Purefoods collide at 4:40 p.m. with San Miguel Beer and Red Bull breaking their 1-1 deadlock in the other semifinal encounter at 7:35.

Four seasons ago, the Aces held a similar 2-0 edge in their best-of-seven titular series against the Giants.

But the Giants strung up three straight wins and stole the deciding Game 7 to take the 2002 Governors Cup.

"We'll see if we can come out and make a different story this time," said Cone after his Aces whacked the Giants, 86-77, in Game 2 Wednesday. "I've learned lessons as a coach for 17 years and that was the worst lesson I've learned."

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull

Though history could serve as guide and inspiration, the Aces have also improved immensely since then.

Veterans Nic Belasco and Jeffrey Cariaso have been blending solidly with Mike Cortez, Willie Miller, Sonny Thoss, Reynel Hugnatan and Tony Dela Cruz.

The Giants, on the other hand, have yet to show the all-around toughness that carried the team to the No. 1 seeding at the end of the eliminations.

Composure also proved crucial for San Miguel as the Beermen withstood Red Bull's rally from 19 points down to level their series after two games. *June Navarro*

Valencia, Pagadian level series

OZAMIZ CITY—VALENCIA DOWNED DEFENDING champion Ozamiz Cotta, 81-75, the other night and sent their best-of-three southern division semifinal series to the limit in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

The Golden Harvest went to Eliazar Berami to force the winner-take-all Game 3 after the Cotta cagers had prevailed, 86-83, in the opener.

Berami, a 6-foot-3 forward from Holy Cross College-Davao, scattered a game-high 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as Valencia of Mayor Jose Galario Jr. bucked the experience of the Ozamiz boys of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog.

Over in Pagadian City, Explorers repulsed the Toyota-Iloilo Warriors, 80-76, to also even their separate best-of-three series.

The scores:

VALENCIA 81—Berami 23, Cesar 10, Navales 9, Cabili 9, Cruz 8, Nailon 7, Concha 6, Clavel 5, Adams 2, Cummings 2, Dumapig 0, Romaguera 0, Braga 0, Celiz 0.

OZAMIZ 75—Basco 18, Bansil 17, Guerrero 12, Ilanga 10, Alberto 6, Cavan 5, Sampilo 5, Liangco 4, Caylan 0, Libatog 0.

Quarters: 13-18, 38-39, 60-58, 81-75

* * *

PAGADIAN 80—Marala 25, Daja 12, Naron 12, Gatumbato 12, Ayuk 6, Orquillas 5, Quilo 5, Salud 4, Pamaran 2, Sinco 0.

TOYOTA-ILOILO 76—Balgos 22, Sanz 12, Leonida 12, Sinco 10, Senierez 9, Bautista 5, Sencil 2, Sina-on 2, Poral 2.

Quarters: 25-19, 46-41, 65-63, 80-76

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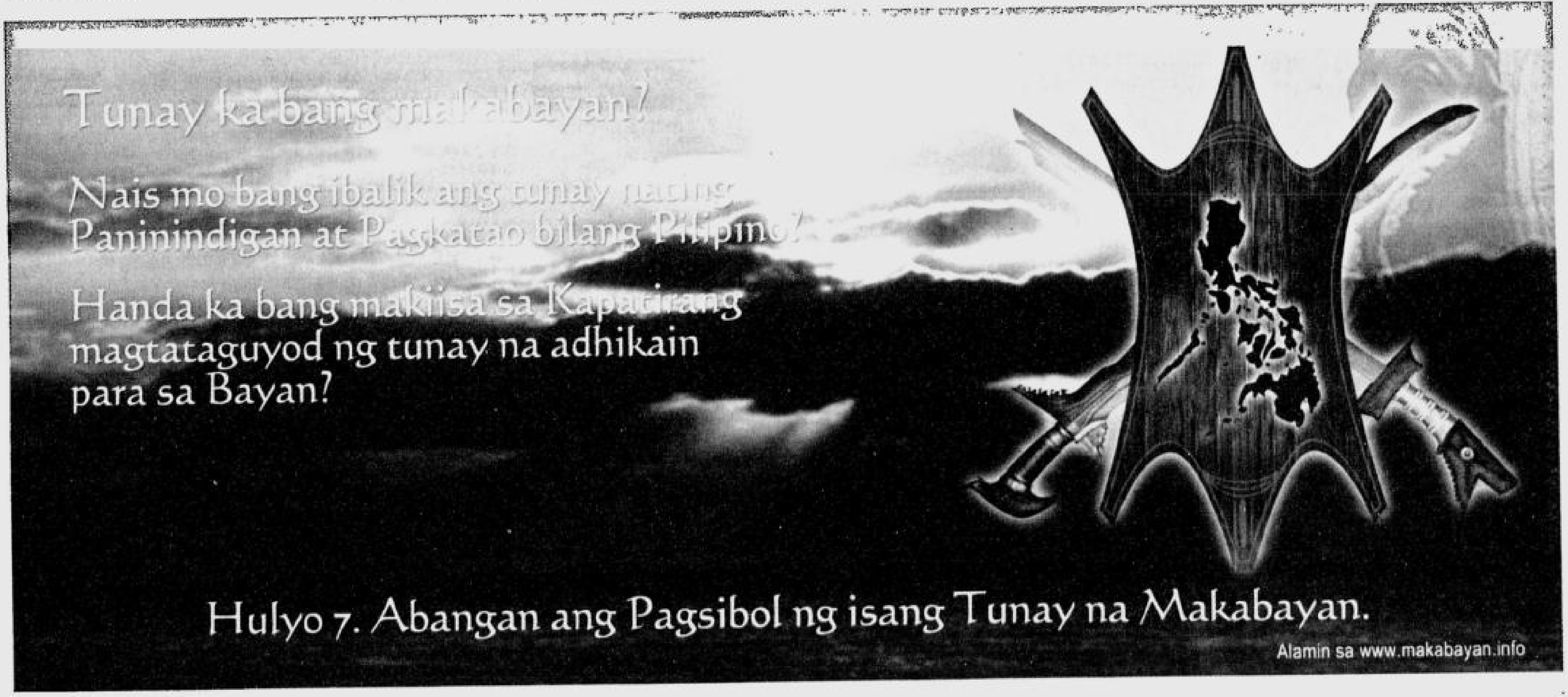

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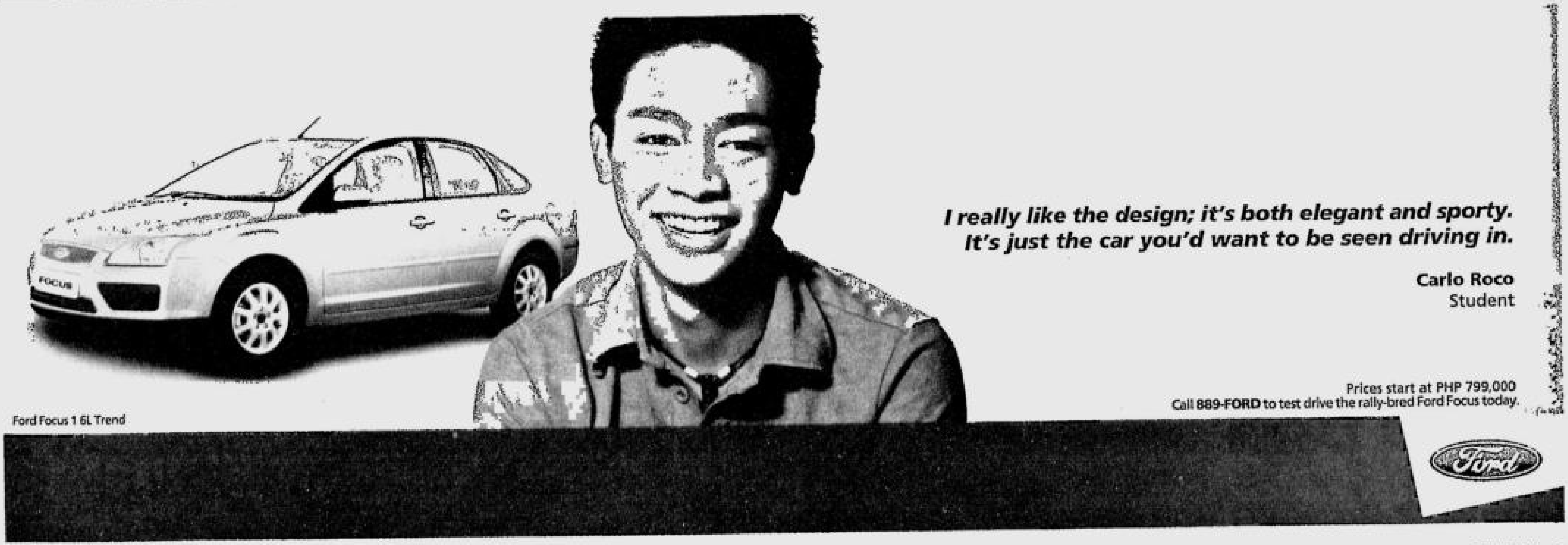

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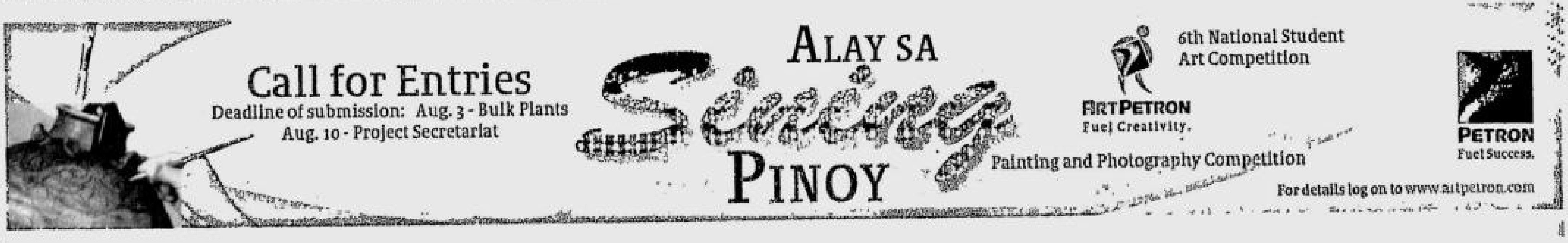

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Manipol rips women's 5,000 RP mark

PALAYAN CITY—VETERAN MERCEDITA MAnipol gifted the 2006 Milo National Athletics Open with its first Philippine record yesterday in dominating the women's 5,000 meters at the Nueva Ecija Sports Center here.

The winner of the 10,000 meters gold in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, was unchallenged in clocking 16 minutes and 54.40 seconds to erase Arsenia Sagaray's old mark of 17:15.00 set in the 1991 Open in Pampanga.

Technical chief Ben Silva-Netto confirmed the record despite the absence of an electronic timer. Sagaray's record run was also hand-timed.

Liza Yambao finished more than three minutes behind Manipol, with Christy Sevillano of Cebu City placing third in 19:14.90.

Mary Grace Milgar won the women's 400-meter hurdles for the six straight year in the event backed by the provincial government of Nueva Ecija, AMA Computer University, Petron, Globe, Fontana Leisure Resort and Creativity Lounge.

Michael Embuedo of the Air Force ruled the men's 10,000 in 45:44.00 while Hany Jane Delpin of Capiz topped the ladies race in 42:13.8.

Exploiting the absence of Marestella Torres, Singaporean Anastasia Goh Xusi captured the women's long jump gold with a leap of 5.68m.

Also scoring for the foreigners were Lin Chiaying of Chinese-Taipei, who ruled the women's shot put with a heave of 14.69m, Ahmad Firdaus Salim of Malaysia, who topped the triple jump by clearing 15.78m, and Taiwanese Chen Yu-hsun, who topped the women's javelin in 48.53.

Tanpinco, Roberto hurdle US matchplay opponents

ANYA TANPINCO AND LORA ROBerto hurdled their respective rivals to reach the last 32 of the matchplay event in the 106th National Amateur Golf Championships of the Women's Western Golf Association in Bluefield, Virginia, Wednesday.

Tanpinco held off Marianne Towersey of Pebble Beach, California, 2 and 1, to arrange a last 32 match with Morgan Olds, who disposed of Kristen Polanski, 3 and 2, in their own side of the duel.

Roberto beat Florida's Tyrette Metzendorf, 3 and 2, to set up a clash with Frederique Bruell, a 4 and 3 winner over Brittany Johnston.

Reigning RP Ladies Open champ Debbie de Villa lost to Sara Ovadia, 3 and 2, in the first round.

PBA five set to see action in Jones Cup

By June Navarro

WITH THE SEASON COMING TO A CLOSE, THE NATIONAL BASKETball team composed of Philippine Basketball Association players tries to get its act together anew with an eye on a possible stint in the Asian Games in December.

Coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes and the Nationals will fly to Chinese-Taipei on July 7 in time for the Jones Cup, an annual tournament featuring some of the finest squads in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Leading the Nationals are Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Renren Ritualo of Talk 'N Text; Nino Canaleta, siblings Ranidel and Yancy de Ocampo of Air21 and Coca-Cola's Billy Mamaril, Dennis Miranda and Rafi Reavis.

Joining them are top amateur players Arwind Santos of Magnolia and LA Tenorio of Harbour Centre, the Finals MVP of the recently concluded Philippine Basketball League Unity Cup.

A slot in the team was left vacant for either James Yap of Purefoods or Alaska's Willie Miller, who are playing in the semifinals of the ongoing Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup.

Joe de Vance of Toyota-Otis in the PBL was supposed to play but left in a huff for the US after his team lost to Harbour Centre in the PBL title series.

Reyes also picked Mark Caguioa but the Barangay Ginebra star begged off to allow a couple of minor injuries to heal after the Gin Kings got booted out by Red Bull in the quarterfinals of the PBA Philippine Cup.

Prior to the Jones Cup tournament, slated July 8-16, the national squad will play a tuneup game against a touring US NCAA selection.

Known as Athletes in Action, the US NCAA selection will arrive a day before testing the mettle of the RP team on July 3.

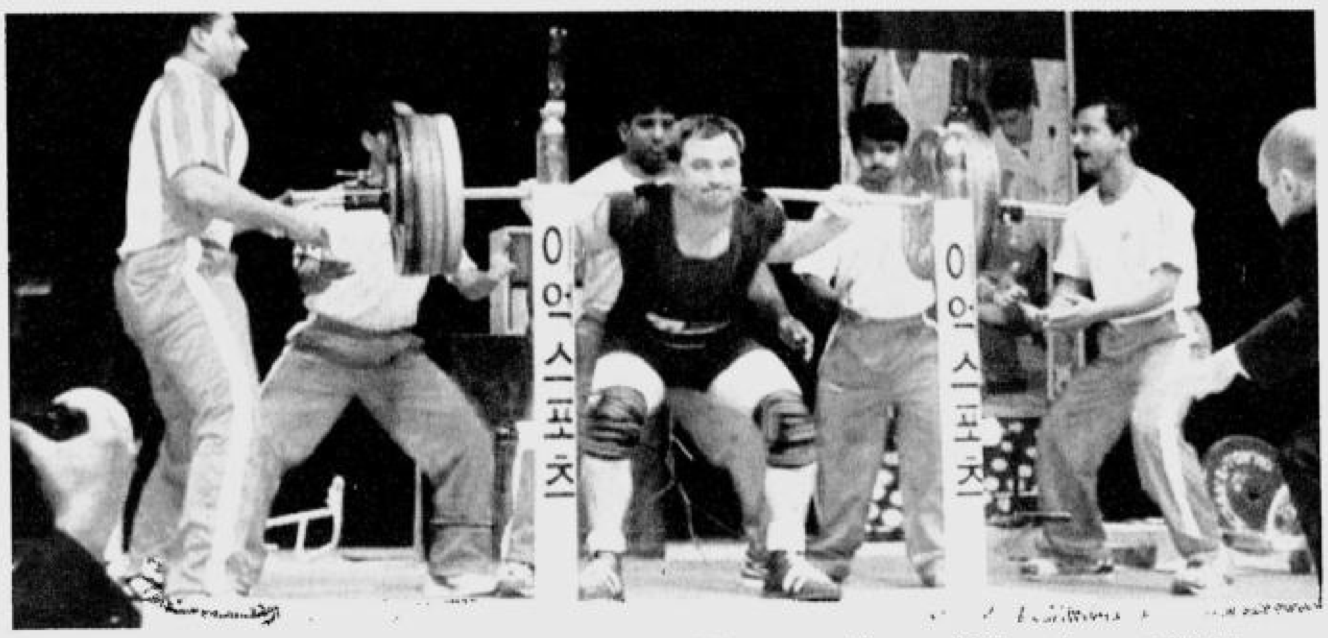
Exhibition games against the Lebanon and Chinese-Taipei national teams are also scheduled for the RP team late next month before they compete in a four-nation tournament in Doha, Qatar, starting on Aug. 3 where they could size up the Lithuanians, Koreans and Qatar's national squad.

"It (the Doha tournament) sends a strong message to the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) that other countries are willing to compete with the national team," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

"I hope they (Fiba officials) will consider our appeal (to lift the Fiba suspension on the Philippines) to formally kick off the country's long-term basketball program."

The Fiba banned the country last year from all its sanctioned tournaments following the Philippine Olympic Committee's expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia Realty will see action in the Sultan's Cup in Brunei next month while Air21 plays in the Hong Kong superleague right after the Jones Cup.



FILIPINO SETS ASIAN RECORD: Eddie Torres, the all-time strongest Filipino, successfully squats 683 lbs. at the recent 2006 Asian Power-lifting Championships in Taebaek, South Korea, breaking the old record of 672 lbs. which he himself set last year. Torres, backed by Sports Nutrition International (SNI), Whey Protein and Zest Gym, bagged 3 gold medals, besting powerlifters from other Asian countries in all weight categories (squat, dead-lift and bench-press total) to lift the heaviest total of 1675 lbs.

FEU, Archers 650 grab Futsal lead

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY AND ARCHERS 650, a team comprised of former La Salle booters, scored lopsided wins over the weekend to climb into a share of the lead in women's play of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the FMAC Gym in La Salle Green Hills, Mandaluyong.

Relying on the steady performances of Stella Ninobla and Ruchell Latap, the Lady Tamaraws drubbed Los Borrachos, 7-1, even as the Archers 650 whipped the University of Asia & the Pacific, 6-1, to clinch their second wins in the three-month long tournament sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

In the only other ladies' match, La Salle slipped past Vintage, 6-3, for its first win in two matches.

Ateneo, meanwhile, outclassed Pagcor, 6-1, for its second win, tying Xavier Alumni for the lead in the men's second division (Group A). Archer Luce dealt Thonburi FC its second loss with a huge 9-2 victory in the men's second division B.

Ninobla started things going for FEU with a goal right in the third minute, and added three more to cap another impressive stint, while Latap chipped in two goals.

The Archers 650, meanwhile, drew three goals from Candice Grey and two more from Stella Valdez to stamp their class against UA&P.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)— Black Peacock (6), Regal Kiss (5), Treasure Island (3), Iron Chef (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)— Nice Legs (2), Please Do (5), Ruah (1), Sand Peebles (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Unang Apo (6), Magic Dancer (4), Modern Classic (1), Cool Operator (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Monalisa (6), Dark Desert (4), Jacklyn Star (7), Rhyme and a Prayer (2), Opening Statement (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Black Pearl (3), Baling Ganda (4), Sellmade (5), Condor (7)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (7), Rock Attack Attack (6), She Boom (2), Coat of Arms (1), Morning Nell (5)
Race 7—(Morning glory (4), Bomb Shell (2), Jawie's Godfather (9), Brute Force (8), Air Power (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Makati Haven (4), Clear Stone (6), Wynn's Connection (1), Best Strike (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Chabacana (5), Expiditer (6), Naglalabyog (11), Jaw Breaker (4), Iron Will (3), Silver Cho Cho (8)

SPORTSWATCH

Sales wins Olympic fest golf in playoff

GARY SALES HIT A PERFECT DRIVE AND THEN SET HIMSELF UP FOR A TAP-IN birdie in a playoff with jungolfer Wolen Superal to bag the gold medal in the first Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) Festival golf tournament at the Villamor Golf Club Wednesday. The two finished at 152 in the 36-hole tournament. Sales also took low-gross honors in Class A of the event backed by Harbour Centre. Superal settled for the Class A net plum with 148. Joel Pilac placed second with 161 (80), three shots ahead of Michael Bibat. Col. Ismael Abad took the low-gross title in senior play with 155 after a 76. Dan Samson won net honors with a 60-119. Crystal Superal captured the women's crown with a 155 (80), while Jun Lambino topped 146 claim the Class B net crown. Edwin Galvez ruled Class C with 132 after a 66.

BF Resort paces Intervillage golf

ED CABRERA AND LOUIE BUSTAMANTE CAME THROUGH WITH 39 POINTS each while Fred Suarez tossed in 38 as BF Resort Village pooled a 293 and pulled off a seven-point victory over Cinco Hermanos/Monte Vista and San Lorenzo in the first round of the Nokia 3 elims of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament at Forest Hills in Antipolo Tuesday. Gen. Jose Lalisan made a 37 while Rupert Bayocot, Arnold Jumalon and Henry Medina each fired 36 points for BFRV Golfers Association, which hopes to sustain its run into the final 18 holes of the 36-hole qualifiers on July 10 at Valley for a crack at the crown. Jerry Tanchuan carded 32 points under the Stableford scoring system to complete BF Resort Village's scoring in the 12-to-play, 8-to-count format event sponsored by Nokia and organized by Videocom to foster camaraderie among the golfing villages in the metropolis.

Pasay 4-cock derby kicks off today

PRIZED GAMEBIRDS WILL BE FIELDED TODAY IN A 4-COCK DERBY AT THE Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The first of at least 70 fights in the derby that stakes P300,000 starts at 5 p.m., said host Danny Alejo. Meanwhile, the venue's management said that P2 million will be up for grabs in the PCC 20th Anniversary 5-cock derby slated July 24, 26 and 28. Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said two-point scorers in the eliminations on July 24 and 26 will get a P10,000 bonus each. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

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Amateur boxing goes to Mindanao

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE STATE OF AMATEUR BOXING IN THE country is hard to explain. There is no question that amateur boxing is one sport that is best suited for Filipinos because there is no height advantage. But how come it is not overflowing with corporate sponsors unlike basketball, a tall man's game, where our chances of winning international glory, in particular an Olympic gold, are nil?

Still, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez is not throwing in the towel. Instead of depending on the Philippine Sports Commission for aid, Lopez has repeatedly tapped the private sector to get amateur boxing going. However, he has a problem getting the sponsors' attention.

Amateur boxing won the most number of Olympic medals in the history of Philippine sports dating back to 1932 in Los Angeles where Cely Villanueva won the bronze medal.

In 1964 when Abap was then headed by the late Eugenio "Gene" Puyat, Cely's son—Anthony Villanueva—won the silver in the Tokyo Games after losing a close and controversial decision to Russian Borislav Stepashkin.

Leopoldo Serantes won a bronze in 1988 in Seoul; Roel Velasco won another bronze in 1992 in Barcelona and Roel's younger brother—Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco—won the silver in 1996 in Atlanta.

Former Abap president and Manila Mayor Mel Lopez attributed the success of amateur boxing in the Philippines to the generous support of sports patrons like SMC boss Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, plastics king William Gatchalian, sports fisherman Vic-Vic Villavicencio of the Triple V Group of Companies, Ernesto Yu of Family Rubbing Alcohol, TV mogul Bobong Velez and the Lopez-owned Pacific Concrete Products and Pacific Heights.

"Our boxers are no longer like robots," the elder Lopez said in a phone interview. "They are now like the Cubans when it comes to technique, power and durability."

The Cubans have dominated Olympic boxing and the World Championships for the past several decades. When Onyok Velasco won the silver in Atlanta, his coach was Cuban Raul Liranza. But hiring a Cuban boxing coach is very expensive, Lopez added, stressing that the Cubans' asking price is about P200,000 a month.

At present, the Abap is conducting a grassroots development program, specifically in Mindanao. The program was launched some years back in Davao City, with local officials led by Rep. Manuel Garcia and Mayor Rudy Duterte supporting the youth-oriented project.

* * *

JEERS: It is very seldom to see Red Dumuk, who is supposed to be a level-headed sports official and Asian Games Task Force member, lose his cool. But it happened just recently at the Philippine Olympic Committee office at the RMSC administration building. Failing to get his copies of that day's newspapers, Dumuk berated a woman employee, banged at the table and then left in a huff. I was told there was not even a budget for the papers that day, so why on earth did he get so very upset?

Cuevas, Standard Today sports editor, writes 30

ROBERTO CUEVAS, VETERAN NEWSMAN AND sports editor of Manila Standard Today, died of heart attack at the De La Salle University Hospital in Dasmariñas, Cavite, yesterday morning. He was 68. Cuevas left behind wife Agapita, son Robert "Bobet" and five grandchildren. Cuevas, who took up prelaw studies at UST, started his journalistic career with the Manila Chronicle in the 1950s. He also served as sports editor for the Manila Times and the defunct Daily Express during the Martial Law years. He was twice president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association. Interment will be announced later.

Wade feels weird as 'Air Apparent'

WADE: They had so much respect for him

DWAYNE WADE GREW UP LIKE A LOT OF kids with a basketball in his hands and a hoop never more than a 3-point shot away. He wanted to be Michael Jordan.

"I remember when the Bulls won their first championship, sitting at home on my floor watching the games. And then Jordan did his shot, the famous shot. I went right in the backyard, turned the lights on and couldn't do it myself," he recalled. "I had no athletic ability."

That was the 1991 NBA finals. Wade was 9 years old. It was probably the first time — but hardly the last — he realized the comparison would never be exact. That didn't stop others from anointing the slender kid with the uncanny ability to get up off the floor as the latest in a long line of "Air Apparents."

Which may be why the best thing that ever happened to Wade was playing for a coach who wasn't easily impressed. After the Heat rode Wade's coattails one final time on Tuesday to claim their first championship, someone asked Pat Riley whether he'd ever seen anybody so good so early in his career.

"Yeah," he replied without hesitation. "I mean, he's good. I love Dwyane and I don't want to disrespect his development. But I watched Michael when he was young. I watched Magic and Larry."

Riley has had a front-row seat on NBA benches long enough that perspective might be his strongest suit. He's won with the best, and been burned by them more times than he cares to remember. It's why he didn't have to think long to recall an even better playoff debut than Wade's, including the crowning achievement of finals MVP.

Riley was a Lakers assistant when Magic, all of 20, moved from the backcourt into the center-jump circle for Game 6 of the 1980 championship, filling in for the injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Forty-two points, 15 rebounds, seven assists and three steals later, Johnson became the first rookie ever to be named MVP. Small wonder Riley wanted to steer the conversation in a different direction.

"Dwyane is who he is," the coach added. "His signature is all over this league."

Wade's signature was all over Game 6, too, but like Magic, his numbers — 36 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, four steals and three blocks — only hint at how special a player he's become. More revealing, Riley pointed out, was how the Heat's cadre of veterans kept looking to Wade for leadership.

Shaquille O'Neal, Gary Payton, Antoine Walker, Alonzo Mourning — each was good enough to be The Man at some other time in some other town. Yet there was never any squabbling and even fewer doubts about whose hands they wanted the ball in when the game was on the line.

"They had so much respect for him because they trusted him," Riley said. "They trusted that he wasn't for himself, only, they trusted that he was all about winning. And a team of veterans can turn over something to him that's that valuable to them because they know he's going to deliver." *AP*

AREVALO (center) with Valdez (left) and Hodges

Young Abby Arevalo goes all the way

QUINCY, ILLINOIS—PAY DIRT.

Abby Arevalo of the Philippines held off the world's best in her division Wednesday afternoon, shooting another eagle-aided 3-under-par 31 for a four-stroke victory in the 6-7 years bracket of the prestigious Pepsi Little People's golf championship at the Knights of Columbus layout here.

The victory was a great reward for all the time the seven-year-old put in training under dad Tony for most of the past year after narrowly losing to American Claire Hodges in the Junior Worlds at Colina Park.

A second-grader at the Southville International School in Las Pinas, Abby, who posted a two-day total of 62, gunned down an eagle 2 at the 130-yard fourth hole after landing her driver within a pin of the hole.

Her putt ignited a raucous celebration from the small Philippine delegation that is also priming up for the Junior Worlds in various courses in San Diego next month.

Diana Camila Valdez of Puerto Rico assembled a 32 and nipped reigning world champion Hodges for second place in sudden death. The Puerto Rican and Hodges shot a 30 for 66 like Valdez.

Abby, who also had three birdies against two bogeys in the final round, now trains her sights on another high-level tuneup event, the Country Youth Classic at Bloomington-Normal next week, before debuting in Class E in San Diego.

"She was so focused, especially after seeing Claire (Hodges) in the field," dad Tony, who caddied for two of his kids in the tournament, said over the phone. "It was a great victory attributed to hard work and we offer it to the Philippines and all the junior golfers back home."

Abby's older brother Anthony finished fourth in the boys' 9-10, in a tie with former winner AR Ramos. Felicia Medalla also landed fourth in the girls' 9-10, won by Mexican Maryrose Navarro, after a second round 40 for 77.

Del Rosario settles for 3rd in tough Thai jetski series

YASOTHON, THAILAND—TOP FILIPINO jetski rider Paul del Rosario captured third place recently in the third leg of the 2006 Thailand National Tour here.

Del Rosario said it was the toughest race he has endured in his career with the racetrack short and fast and the backmarkers unyielding.

Carrying the colors of Team Flamingo owned by the renowned Henry Knauf, Del Rosario wound up next to Thai world champion Ekchon Kingchansil and second-placer Chaovalit Cucharoon.

His effort moved Del Rosario to third overall in the series.

"It was really hard since you had to deal with limited movements on the course which really pushed the riders' versatility, strategy and skills to the limit no matter how powerful your boat was," said Del Rosario, who is backed by Petron Corp., Manila Cordage, Stoked inc, Playboy Apparel, Quakeysense Wetsuits of Japan and Networx Jetsports

Del Rosario crashed with a Japanese rider in the first leg in Phuket, leaving the Filipino's jetski damaged.

In the second leg in Chonburi, he was running second in the third heat when a big wave sent his craft flying into the air.

Del Rosario checked in second in Yasothon after passing Chaovalit with three laps to go. The Filipino wound up third in heats 2 and 3 after overcoming the backmarkers who would not give way to him Chaovalist and Ekchon.

Subic showdown tomorrow

SUBIC—THE TOP TITLE CONtenders are bracing for another showdown in the championship round of the 2006 Petron National Jetski Series tomorrow at the Subic Waterfront Beach.

Fifty or so entries, including visiting riders from the Iloilo Watercraft Association and the Davao Jet Sports Association, will plunge into action.

World jetski runner-up Paul del Rosario, fresh from his third place finish in the Thailand National Tour, is tipped to take the Rider of the Year Award as he guns for another sweep in the premiere Expert Unlimited 1200 class.

Del Rosario swept the past two legs for a perfect 100 points. But three other riders—John Dee of Intex Marketing and Dev't Corp. and Networx Jetsports teammates BJ Ang and Michael Mangio could still pull a surprise.

Dee is second overall with 86 points while Ang and Mangio follow with 82 and 72, respectively.

Del Rosario is also eyeing the Stand-up title against Carlo Garcia and Dee, and the Open Sport crown against Isip.

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SIPAG, NOT SWERTE

By Felicidad Galang-Pereña

With television pandering to games of chance and cultural icons from showbiz condescending their fame to swerte, how can this country teach the value of a worthy personal ethics to our youth?

Last summer, Burlington, The Socks Authority, provided the answer to this conundrum. "We wanted to remind our young people that good things come from discipline and determination instead of mere reliance on luck, so we continued and even enhanced the Burlington-PBA summer project," explains Ruddy Tan of Burlington Industries Phils, Inc., maker of world-class hosiery.

LGU's and PBA collaboration

The league opened in 2004 with just ten teams with the Quezon City squad annexing the title in the past two seasons.

On its third year, the tournament with Norman Black as commissioner was renamed Burlington-Batang PBA. The first phase in April was devoted to clinics. The next phase was for the tournament proper, lasting from May 7 to June 11.

Thirteen teams donning replica jerseys of PBA squads were fielded by local government units in Metro Manila.

At the end of the season, two tough teams gunned for the championship: Batang Red Bull-Makati and Batang Harbour Center-Caloocan with the former emerging as winners.

Grateful coaches and players

Miguel Carlo Aytona, a 10-year old grader from La Salle Greenhills, who played for Batang Welcoat-Q C, had the time of his life. "It was a dream-come-true for me." Butch Orozco, coach of Batang-Marikina, is thankful for the season's harvest of disciplined young PBA hopefuls. "Thanks to Burlington, we are ensuring that the values of perseverance and fortitude are propagated."

Fathers and sons in plant tour

Former PBA cagers bonded with their sons while participating in the event. Keiffer and Luigi, sons of Bong Ravena and Franz Pumaren, respectively, both played for Q C; while King, son of Gerry Esplana, played for Mandaluyong

Another PBA stalwart, Rey Evangelista of Purefoods, visited the Batang-Mandaluyong practice at the city gym, to inspire the boys including the one who wore his Corned Beef Giants jersey number 7.

An educational tour was conducted as a bonus to the team and their parents at the state-of-the-art Burlington factory in Makati. The boys observed up close how the trend-setting Shocks XT and Bio-Fresh are made.

"A real fruitful summer for the boys!", declares Liza Andaya, mom of Robert of Burlington All Stars.

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First Round

Team®	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
GROUP A							
Germany	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Ecuador	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Poland	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
GROUP B							
England	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Sweden	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Paraguay	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Trin. & Tob.	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
GROUP C							
Argentina	3	2	1	0	8	1	7
Netherlands	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Ivory Coast	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Serb. & Mont.	3	0	0	3	2	10	0
GROUP D							
Portugal	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Mexico	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Angola	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Iran	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
GROUP E							
Italy	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Ghana	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
USA	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
GROUP F							
Brazil	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Australia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Croatia	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Japan	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
GROUP G							
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Korea Republic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
France	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Togo	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
GROUP H							
Spain	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	6	1

INQGRAPHICS/LOUIE BACANI

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

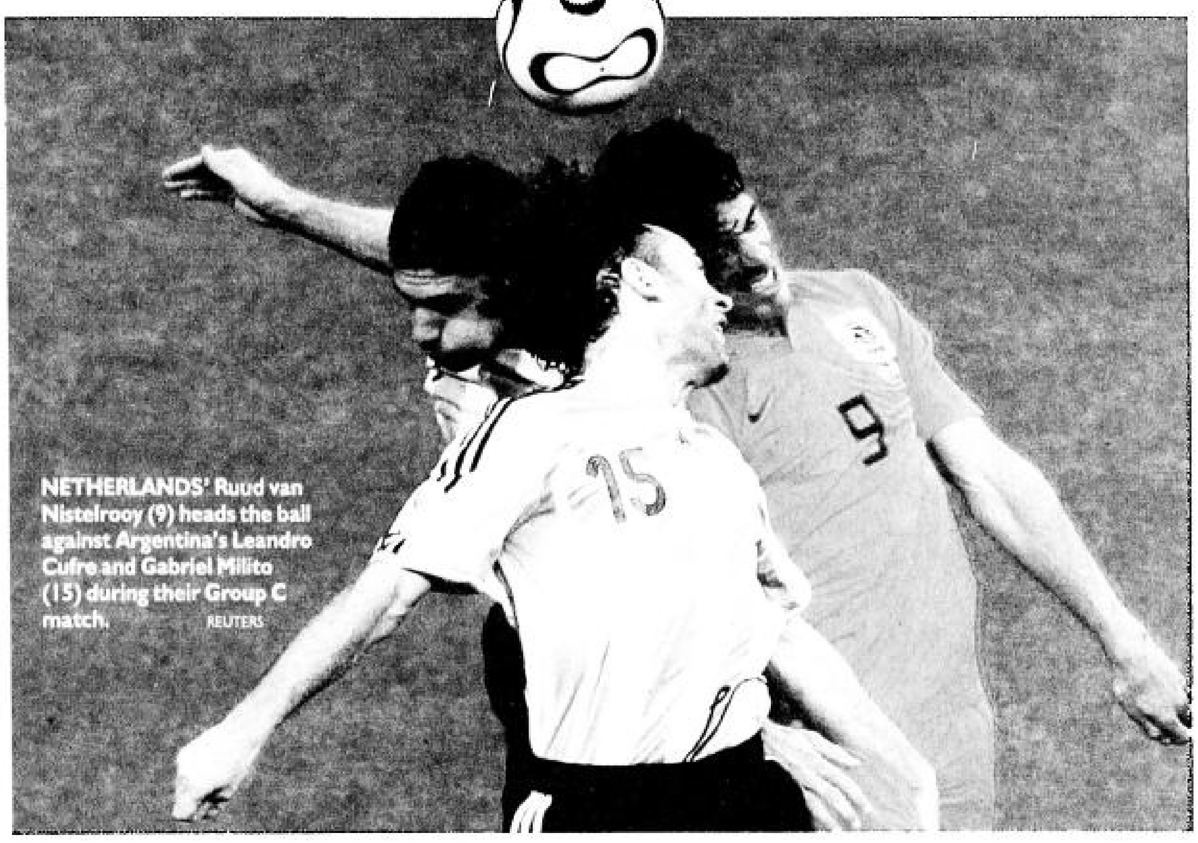
Netherland 0, Argentina 0; Ivory Coast 3, Serbia and Montenegro 2; Portugal 2, Mexico 1; Iran 1, Angola 1

TODAY'S MATCHES

Czech Republic vs Italy; Ghana vs USA; Japan vs Brazil; Croatia vs Australia

TEAM®
MP - Matches Played
W - Wins
D - Draws
L - Losses
GF - Goals For
GA - Goals Against
Pts - Points

Portugal claims top spot; Argentina duplicates feat



NETHERLANDS' Ruud van Nistelrooy (9) heads the ball against Argentina's Leandro Cufre and Gabriel Milito (15) during their Group C match. REUTERS

BERLIN—PORTUGAL BEAT MEXICO, 2-1, with goals from Maniche and Simao Sabrosa in a frantic clash in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday, sealing top spot in Group D and extending a World Cup record for their coach.

Mexico, who missed a penalty and played the last half hour with 10 men, also qualified for the last 16 when Angola, who needed a big win over Iran to stand a chance of going through, could only manage a 1-1 draw with Iran in Leipzig.

Argentina clinched first place in Group C when they held the Dutch, who qualify behind them on goal difference, to a flat goalless draw in Frankfurt.

The match, a re-run of the 1978 final, had been eagerly awaited but it proved disappointing, with both sides resting a number of players.

"I'm not really satisfied," said Dutch captain and goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar "We wanted to win the group. But I think Argentina made it quite difficult for us."

Argentina will take on Mexico in the last 16 on Saturday in Leipzig. Portugal will face the Dutch the following night in Nuremberg.

Portugal's success provided a 10th successive victory for coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who led Brazil to World Cup glory four years ago with seven straight wins.

"Ten wins in the World Cup is the kind of thing that would mark anybody's life, especially mine," the Brazilian said.

Maniche put Portugal ahead with a trademark long-range shot and Simao rattled in from the spot.

Jose Fonseca headed one back and Mexico should have equalized when Omar Bravo blazed a penalty over the bar. They then had Luis Perez sent off for a dive.

That left Portugal top with nine points, Mexico second with four, Angola third with two and Iran bottom with one.

Iran's governmental Physical Education Organization sacked the head of the football federation and apologized to the nation after the first round exit. *Reuters*

Fifa World Cup on Sportplus

1 a.m.—Portugal vs Mexico; 4 a.m.—Netherlands vs Argentina; 1 p.m.—Iran vs Angola; 4 p.m.—Ivory Coast vs Serbia & Montenegro (replay tomorrow @ 1 a.m.); 10 p.m.—Czech Republic vs Italy.

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US players confident of breakout vs Ghana

AN ELEPHANT kicks the ball during a friendly match against Rajabhat Ayuthaya University team in Ayuthaya province north of Bangkok on Thursday. The match was held as a campaign against gambling during the 2006 World Cup. AP

NUREMBERG—UNABLE TO SCORE IN TWO World Cup starts and facing a must-win match against Ghana, US players are nonetheless confident in their ability to finally find a way to finish here Thursday.

The Americans need a victory to have any chance of advancing from Group E into the knockout stage. They would also need an Italy victory over the Czech Republic or a high-scoring triumph to boost their goal difference total.

"This team has done it before. We know we can break out and have a game where we score a few goals," US captain Claudio Reyna said.

"Hopefully this is the one." No US men's team has ever scored more than three goals in a World Cup match and since a stunning 1950 upset of England, the Americans are 3-12 with three drawn in World Cup matches.

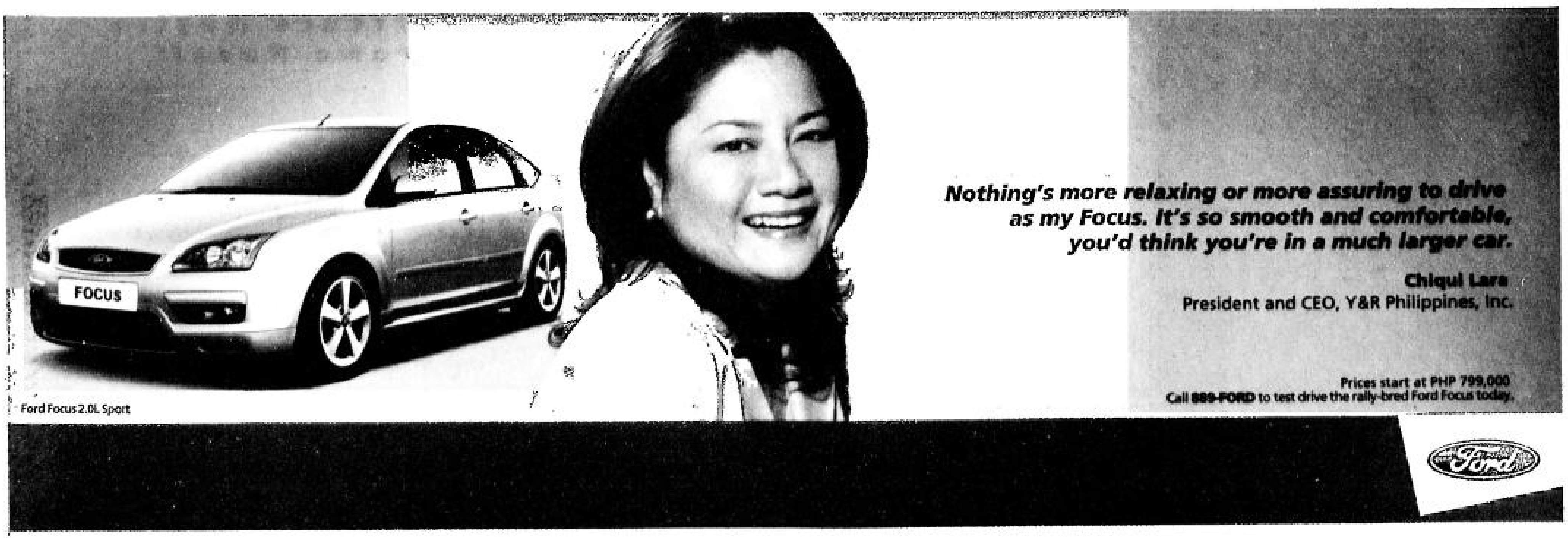
This US team has managed only one shot on goal and its lone tally in a 1-1 draw with Italy came from an Azzurri own-goal.

But US attackers showed some life against Italy before two red cards kept them back.

"If we can do it against Italy, one of the great defensive teams in the world, it gives us confidence the chances will be there," Reyna said.

"The crosses have to be a bit better. We have to get a few more bodies in the box. We have to get a few more on target and make the goalies work. Set pieces and crosses are going to be a big way for us to create chances.

"What we need to improve on is the last ball, the last shot. It's that last little piece that's missing." *AFP*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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ABC 5 to give docu grants

DODGE Dillague, creative director

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By Marinel R. Cruz

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG filmmakers. ABC 5 is considering giving grants to directors of documentaries or short films through its weekly TV program "Dokyu: Ang Bagong Mata ng Pinoy Documentaries."

According to Dodge M. Dillague, creative director for "Dokyu," the show is pushing through with its plan to fund documentaries as soon as it receives the go signal from network bosses.

"This is the next level for 'Dokyu,'" Dillague told INQUIRER Entertainment during a visit to the ABC 5 offices in Novaliches, Quezon City. "We've aired more than 50 documentaries, mostly of students, amateurs and professionals. While we show an average of only two documentaries per episode, the show gets almost a hundred entries a week."

"Dokyu," now on its fifth season, was designed to be a venue for students and first-time filmmakers to showcase their work. Starting July 27, the program will also air short films.

Screening

Dillague said a six-member committee was formed to choose the best documentaries for TV in terms of quality, technical ability and story. The committee is comprised of the show's executive producer, consists of the head writer, director, creative director and the network's chief of news and public affairs.

Dillague showed INQUIRER Entertainment its news and public affairs (N&PA) office where hundreds of entries—in VCD, DVD and Betamax formats—were stored.

"These are from provinces such as Bicol, Cebu, Bacolod, Davao and Baguio," he said. "We received one from New York City. But we're still on the lookout for more interesting materials."

What does it take for a piece to be aired on "Dokyu"?

"The general idea is, if it kept us riveted, then

ABC 5/ A2-2

The real score: Volante, Vicor and Villafuerte

"HE ASKED TO BE RELEASED SO HE COULD continue working with Vicor Records," said Nyoy Volante's manager Hanzel Villafuerte, on the news that the singer had sought the release from his talent contract with Villafuerte's company, 7003 Dynamix Production.

"He said it was his parents' decision. I hope they can handle his career well," said Villafuerte. Nyoy's parents are now his managers.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the letter of release dated June 8, signed by Villafuerte and Nyoy's parents, Oliver and Helen. Nyoy's contract with Dynamix expired on March 15.

At odds

A source close to Villafuerte said he is at odds with Steven Tan, president of Vicor, which produced Nyoy's three albums.

Villafuerte didn't think Vicor promoted Nyoy's album well enough, the source said: "Hanzel was very hands-on. He even created the marketing plan for Nyoy's first CD. All Vicor did was host a standard album launch and one radio tour for each album. Whenever Hanzel pointed out to a lack of follow-throughs, Vicor said he was too demanding."

INQUIRER tried to contact Tan, but he was out of the country. Vicor marketing manager Jimmy Barinaga said it was Villafuerte who was often remiss in his job.

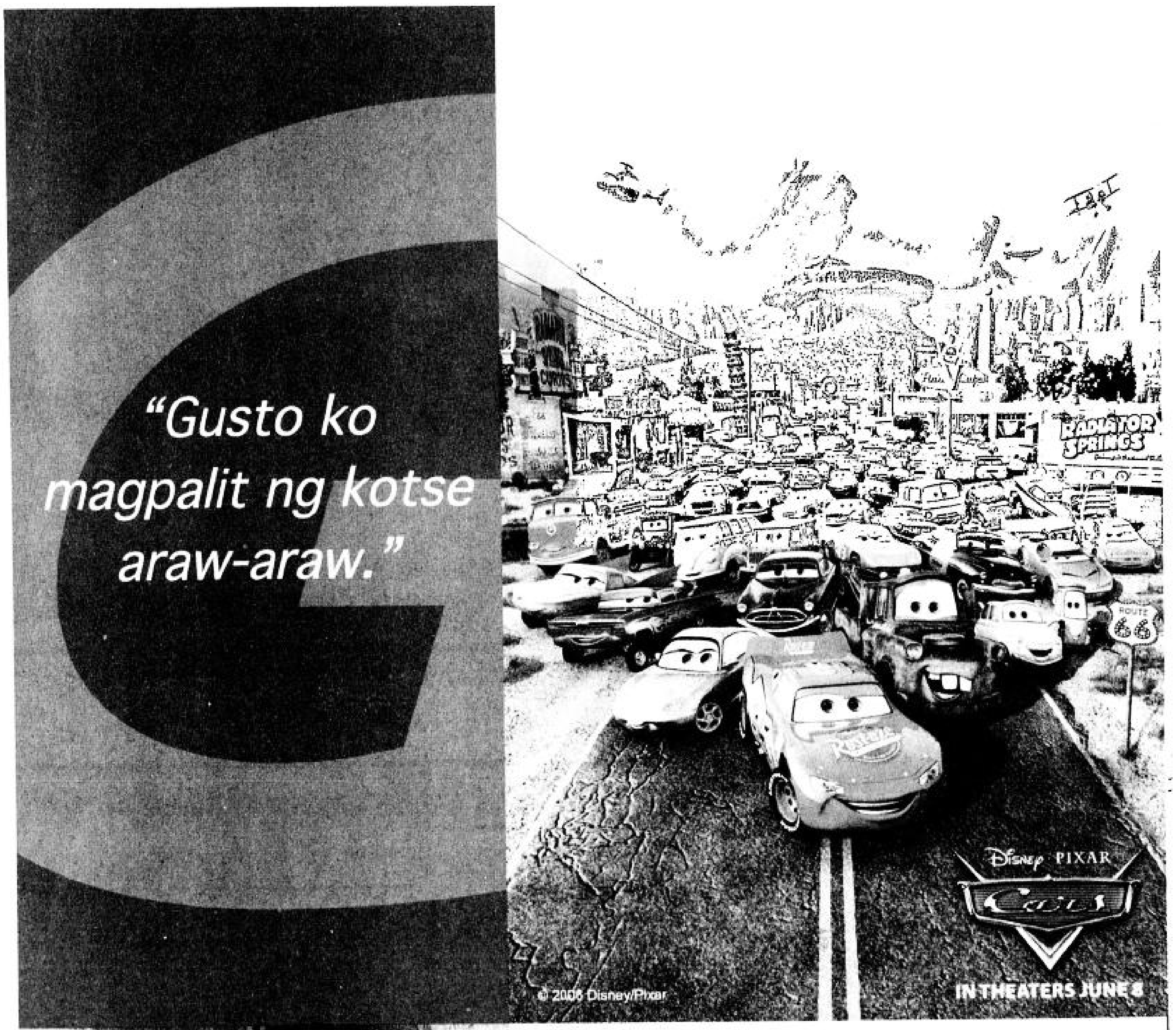
"For instance," Barinaga said, "when Vicor was promoting Nyoy's last album ('OPM Klasik Hits'), we had to cancel one mall show because of a schedule mix-up."

Fixing it

Villafuerte said it had been a year since the release of "Klasik," and Nyoy was eager to work on another. (The singer signed with Vicor in April 2003.) "Vicor told him they'd start on the fourth album only if he asked to be released from Dynamix," said the manager.

Barinaga denied this. "It was Nyoy's parents who came to us two weeks ago," he said. "They volunteered to fix what they said needed to be fixed."

"*Okey lang*," said Villafuerte. "My only consolation is that Nyoy left my company while he's still on top." *Marinel R. Cruz*



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ABC 5 to give . . .

From page A2-1

the material is good. If it is done by students, *dapat malinis*," said Dillague. "Secondly, it has to answer questions like, 'What's it about? Why was it made?'"

He added: "If a docu is created by professionals, we assume that it's 'clean,' so we look at the story line. Docus sometimes promote a group. We're very cautious."

Dillague said the program was also looking into the possibility of giving out awards for the best documentaries.

"Dokyu" airs from 10 to 11 p.m. on ABC 5.

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② SCARY MOVIE 4
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1 20, 3 30, 5 40, 7 50, 10 00

③ LAKE HOUSE
MTRCB GP
1 20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

④ THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	THE NUN R13 1:25,3:30,5:35,7:40,9:45	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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GP

3 SCARY MOVIE 4
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55
R-13

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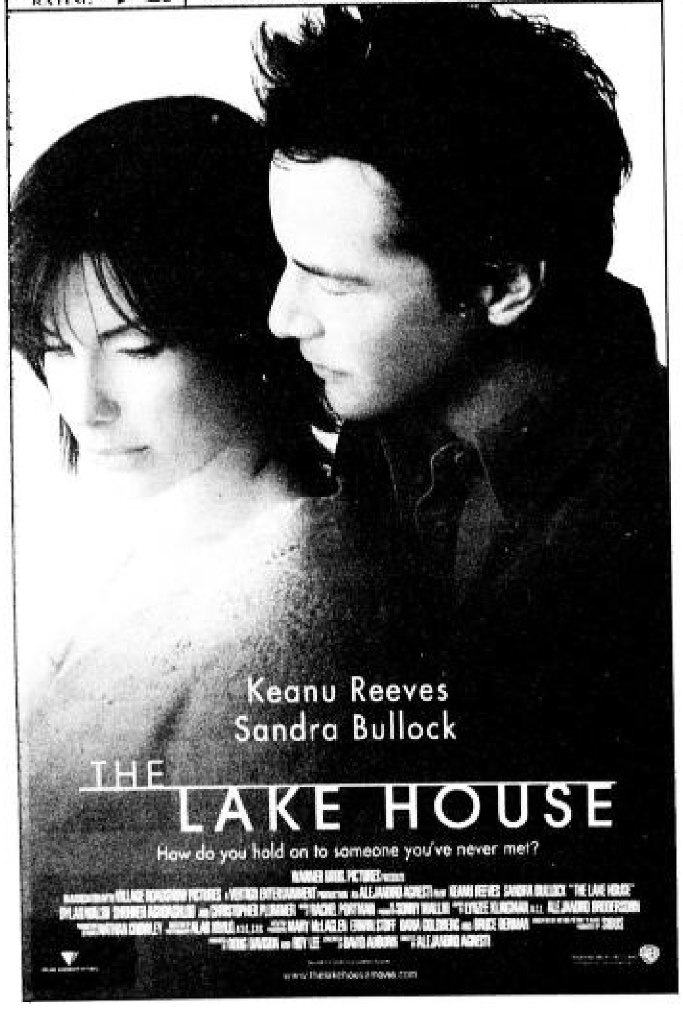
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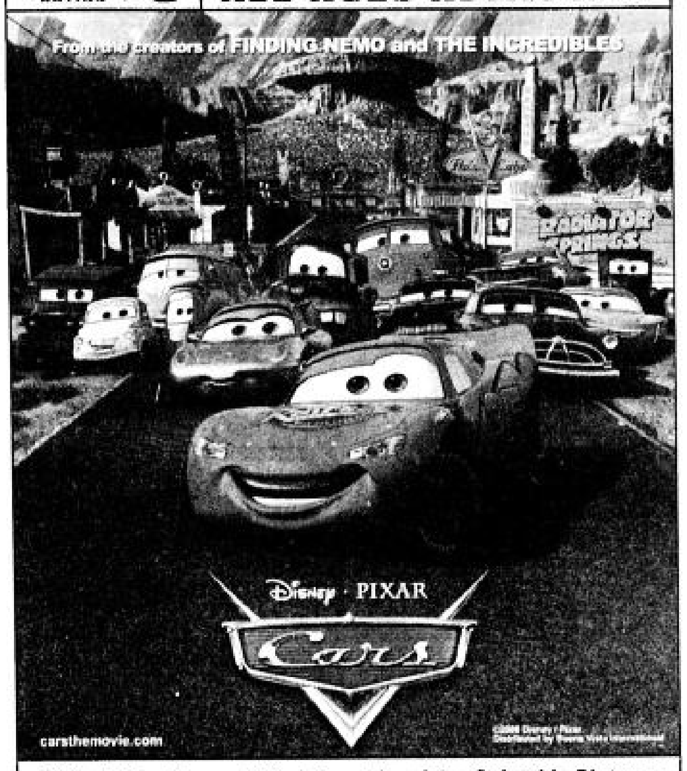
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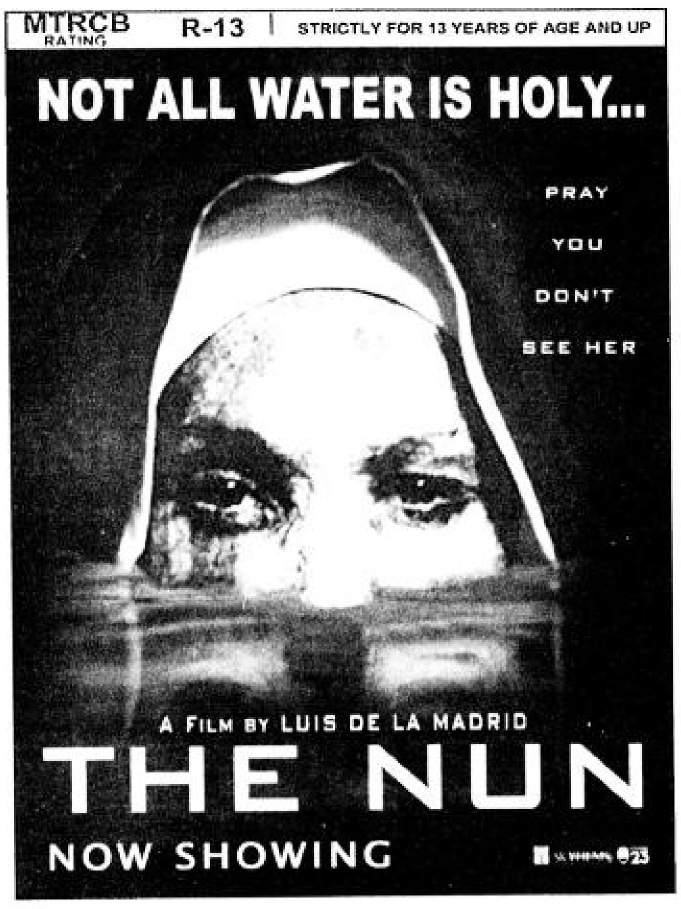
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	4 KINSEY	5 CARS	6 SCARY MOVIE 4	7 THE SECRET OF THE CODE	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 SCARY MOVIE 4			
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE LAKE HOUSE 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SCARY MOVIE 4 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS			
	3 KINSEY 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 GARFIELD 2 - 1:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45 INSIDE MAN - 8:26, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CARS 1:26, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SCARY MOVIE 4	2 CARS			
	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 THE NUN	5 PACQUIAO		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 PACQUIAO	3 HILLS HAVE EYES	4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT	
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 THE NUN			
	3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	4 PACQUIAO	5 THE LAKE HOUSE		

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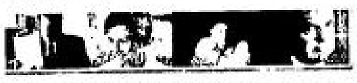

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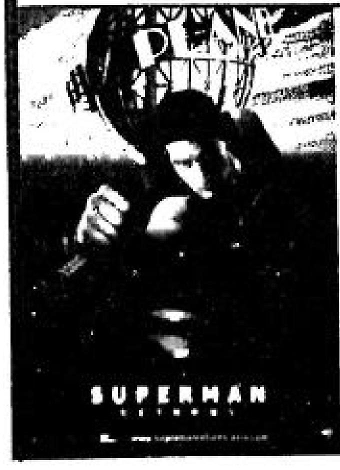

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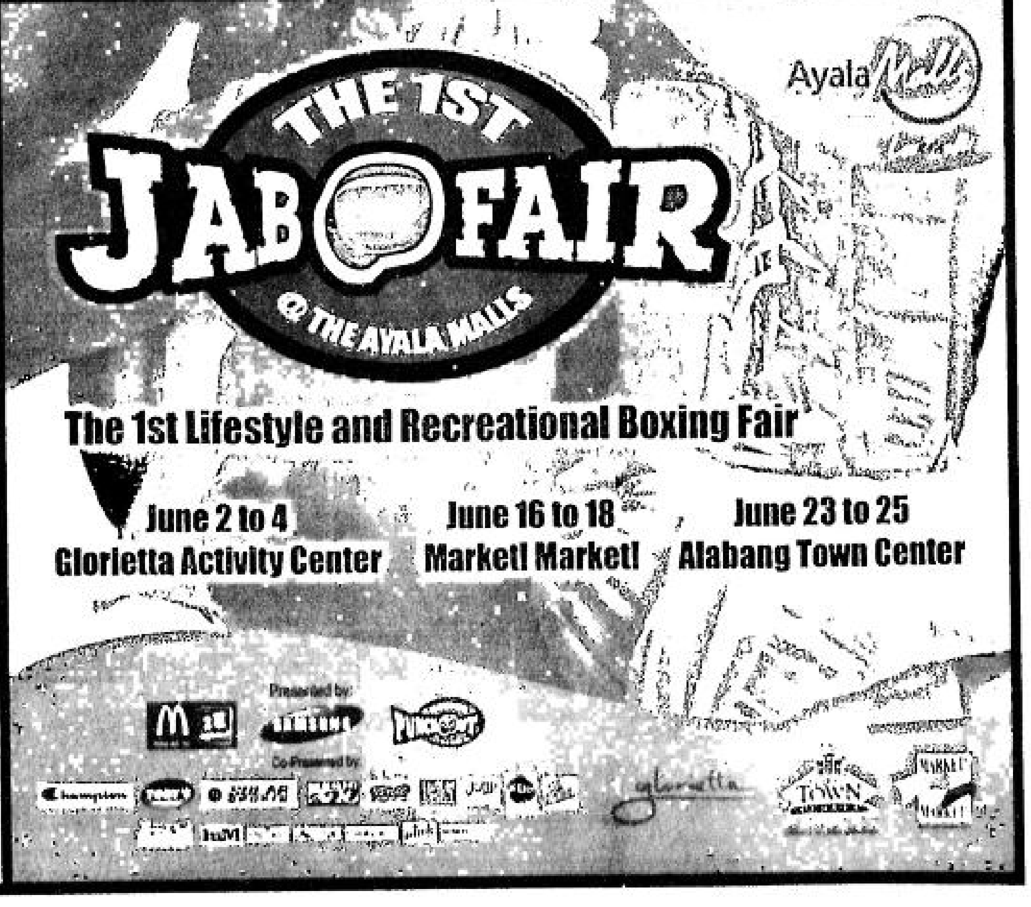
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'SUPERMAN Returns' is a crowd-pleasing take on the beloved Man of Steel

The return flight

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

IT IS IRONY, NOT KRYPTONITE, that poses the greatest danger to Superman. For all his storied powers, the Man of Steel is perhaps the most one-dimensional of protagonists, a red-white-and-blue paragon in a black-and-white world.

This is why 1978's "Superman The Movie," directed by Richard Donner and featuring, in a star-making turn, Christopher Reeve, was an exercise in aspirational fantasy featuring a metahuman messiah—and, for its time, groundbreaking special effects. Almost three decades hence, the bar for special effects has been raised to mesospheric heights and every moviegoer's a cynic.

Throwback

Yet "Superman Returns," directed by Bryan Singer ("X-Men" and "The Usual Suspects"), is a throwback. It isn't so much a homage as a sequel to "Superman II," not only continuing the tradition of the best Superman movie ever, but also erasing from movie continuity the terrible "Superman III" and "Superman IV: The Quest for Peace."

The familiar opening credits give away the fact that so much of "Superman Returns" is clearly inspired by Donner's movie, down to Clark Kent's spit cur, even employing bits of John Williams' grand theme. Singer preserves the mythology from those first two movies, the same Superman essentials first dreamed up by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in 1941's "Action Comics # 1."

In that same spirit, Singer cast a newcomer, Brandon Routh as Clark Kent/Superman, while relying on more seasoned cast mates in Kevin Spacey (Lex Luthor) and Kate Bosworth (Lois Lane). Five years after leaving Metropolis, Superman returns to find his adoptive father dead, Lois married and a mother, and Luthor once again rich and out of prison. Even as Clark Kent tries to come to terms with a world that does not seem to need him, a conspiracy of events forces Superman to face a familiar threat. It is the prototypical Superman plot.

Reincarnation

Despite the challenge of portraying DC Comics' American icon, Routh succeeds in filling out the less-than-stellar redesigned costume very well. His dark good looks and solid build make him a perfect reincarnation of the Christopher Reeve-powered Man of Steel. That being said, he really is not asked to do much here save to look good flying. Bosworth is hamstrung from the beginning—she just looks too young to be a veteran reporter.

Spacey dusts off some "Usual Suspects" mojo with his version of Gene Hackman's goofier Luthor, adding a startling if overacted psychotic side to the villain. As Lane's husband Richard, James Marsden—yes, Cyclops from "X-men"—finds himself in the middle of another superheroic love triangle. The supporting cast is solid, particularly Sam Huntington as the gee-whiz Jimmy Olsen; it's also geeky fun to see Kal Penn channeling "Evil Kumar" as Luthor henchman Stanford.

Curiously, Singer reverses the course he took with unleashing "X-Men" and "X2: X-Men United." Working off a script by "X2" scribes Michael Dougherty and Dan Harris, Singer's "Superman Returns" is an exuberant crowd-pleaser, offering just the thinnest of plots to showcase spectacular special effects. You may have seen simulated flight before, but nothing quite like this. Neo, eat your heart out.

A single fun plot twist aside, precious little has been done to update or alter Superman for a new audience. From the design aesthetic to the plot ethic, "Superman Returns" is more a return to 1978. No Doomsday, no Superman Blue, just the late Marlon Brando's cinematic resurrection as Jor-El.

ROUTH as Kent/Superman

Uncomplicated

That cookie cutter aspect makes "Superman Returns" the gleaming light to the edgy darkness of Christopher Nolan's "Batman Begins," the movie that it will be most often compared to. But it really is different. It has neither the psychodrama of "Batman" nor the dilemmas of Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man." It's a straightforward, uncomplicated and visually arresting nostalgia trip, back to when heroes are heroes, villains are villains and we want to believe men can still fly.

Thus "Superman Returns" is a reintroduction and establishes itself as a full-fledged celebration of what makes Superman so iconic. "Superman Returns" is not a movie for viewers seeking a newly forged Man of Steel. It's a movie for those who want the old Man of Steel. It's for those who want to be rescued. Passengers, please cue the music and enjoy the rest of your flight.

(Warner Bros.' "Superman Returns" opens in Metro Manila theaters on June 28.)

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Meryl wears the 'fashionista' devil well

LOS ANGELES—FROM READER Nico Marco of Quezon City: "Thanks for writing that column about my idol, **Madonna**. Just a little trivia: Madonna's current favorite dancer is Filipino-American **Cloud Campos**. He's been touring with the queen of pop in her recent gigs, from 'Live 8' to her ongoing 'Confessions' tour. Madonna fans all over the world love Cloud!"

Nico added, "If you noticed a Japanese-looking guy in the show you watched and wrote about, that's Cloud. I'm so proud he's Pinoy!"

* * *

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

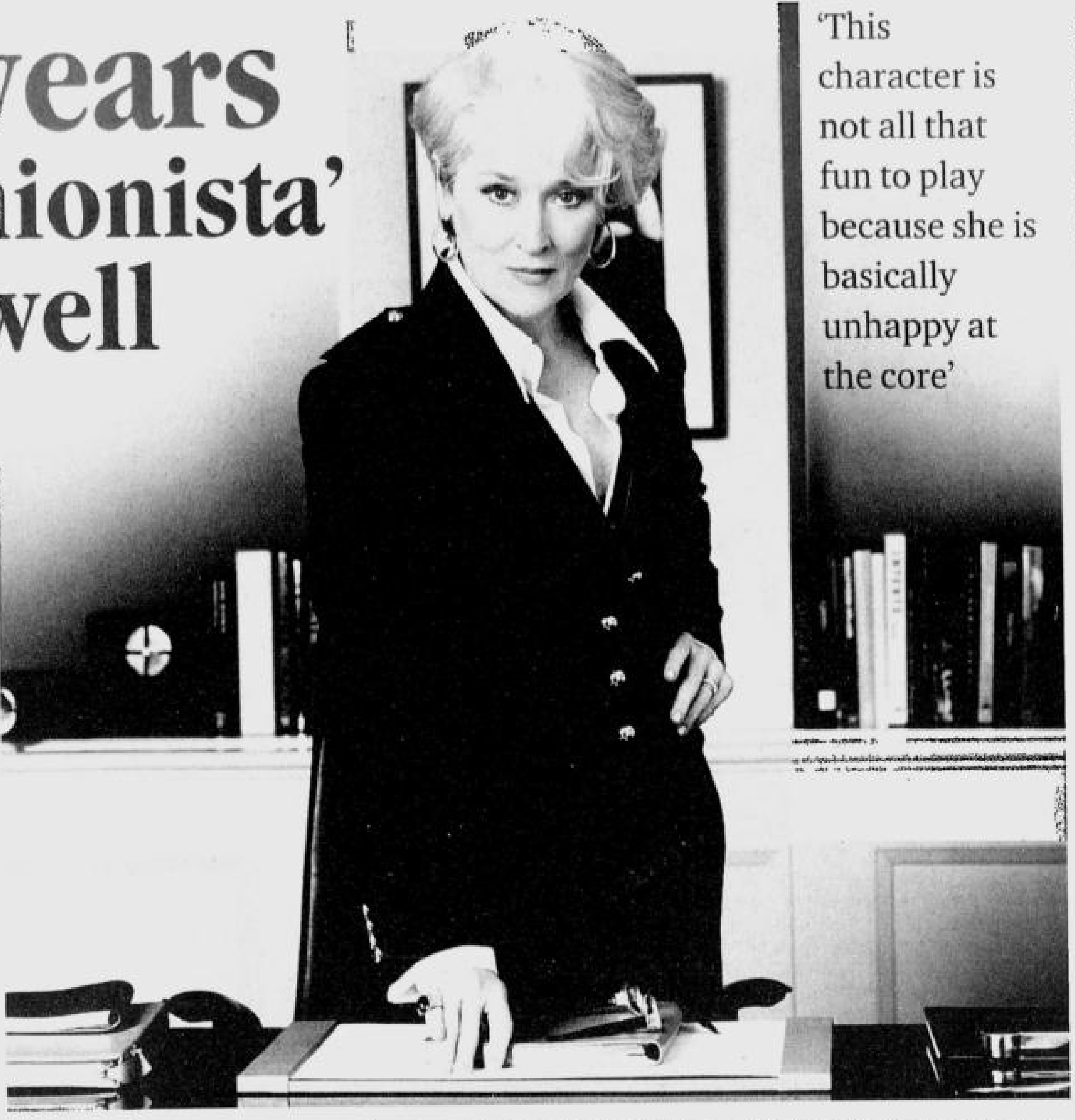
Ruben V. Nepales

We recently posed a question in this column after **Meryl Streep** impressed us with her singing in "A Prairie Home Companion": Is there anything this greatest actress of our generation cannot do? The sublime thespian gave an answer in a recent press con.

"Lots of things," said Meryl. "There are many things I can't do anymore, just by virtue of my age." Well, by virtue of her renowned acting talents, she does it again in the much-awaited film adaptation of **Lauren Weisberger**'s best-selling novel, "The Devil Wears Prada." Meryl is deliciously wicked as a fashion magazine editor reportedly patterned by Lauren after Vogue's **Anna Wintour.**

Supposedly a thinly disguised account of Lauren's actual stint as an assistant to Anna, whose nicknames at Vogue's office include "Nuclear Wintour," "Frozen" and "Dragon Lady," "The Devil Wears Prada" shows Meryl finely essaying a character who is mean and sad at the same time. **Anne Hathaway** plays the hapless assistant to Meryl's Miranda Priestly while **Stanley Tucci** is the gay sycophant. Rounding up the cast are **Emily Blunt, Adrian Grenier, Simon Baker** and **Tracie Thoms.**

During the interview, Meryl wore a brown pantsuit by Valentino (not Prada), who has a cameo in the movie.



'This character is not all that fun to play because she is basically unhappy at the core'

Has Anna Wintour seen this movie? Did you meet her at the screening?

Someone invited Anna to a benefit screening. I wasn't in charge of the guest list. I had trouble getting my own family in (laughter). I don't know her and I had never met her [before the screening]. Anna sat a couple of seats in front of me. We were introduced and she was very cordial. I have said this over and over: I didn't base my performance on her. I don't really know anything about her.

But what about the look? Who did you pattern it after?

The look that we chose for "Prada" was a combination of iconic women that I know in the fashion world—**Liz Tilberis** and **Polly Mellon.** I admire these women. We were also inspired by Carmen, a model whom they always get whenever they want an older, exquisite woman. She has this great swath of white hair that doesn't look like anybody else's. I like the idea of choosing not to color your hair in an industry where everything would scream at you to be youthful, to dye your hair. It is the look that women in strong positions choose. They choose something that doesn't look like anybody else. For example, nobody looked like **Diana Vreeland.**

Do you relish playing a strong woman who is not too nice?

It is supposed to be fun to play a villain but I didn't see this person as a villain. You can't really sit outside, judge them and play them effectively. But this character was not that fun to play because she's basically a little bit unhappy at the core. She took great satisfaction in her work, in how well she did professionally. But her satisfaction is ultimately hollow. At home, she doesn't feel good. It is much more fun to play Yolanda, my character in "A Prairie Home Companion," who is poor and has crappy clothes but she just loves to sing, loves to be in love and loves her daughter. That's a more nourishing person to play. But this role is probably more fun to the audience.

What does the greatest actress bring to this most difficult genre of comedy?

Ah, well, you'll have to ask her (laughter).

How did you come out with just the right mix?

In my experience, the most powerful people scream the least. People who are very powerful don't have to raise their voice.

Stanley Tucci was asked if he was intimidated, working with you. He said no, because you were so accommodating.

Stanley just wants me on his charades team (laughing) because we play charades every New Year's Eve. I have known him for years and usually, he is on the other team so he is being nice to me now (laughing). Stanley is a wonderful actor.

Do you think there are different standards for men and women in top positions?

I do think that women are held to a different standard. I've watched this movie several times now. The first time I watched it, I simply watched the movie. The second time I watched, I tried to imagine a man in my character, who is maybe 6'2" tall, nice looking, graying hair, delivering the lines almost exactly the same way that my character did and there would be absolutely nothing offensive. Women have to wrap their requests in a special package. In my observation, male directors don't have to do that. Female directors have to present a request in a certain way.

Speaking of directors, have you had unpleasant experiences with some of them?

In my experience, sometimes it has to do with their feeling of losing control. They are obsessed with control. There was one director I worked with who tried to control who the actors spoke with on the set. He made the request that the actors not talk to each other unless he was in on the conversation (laughter). He was very worried that something would be out of his control. So there was no life in his film. The greatest directors, on the other hand, give you the illusion that it is all up to you and that whatever you want to do is fine. They give you complete freedom because they have faith.

Do you expect star treatment on the set?

I don't expect anything and generally, I don't get it (laughter). It doesn't interest me. I just like to work and I like to work with actors. Everybody figures that out real fast. I do like to have a good time on the set and it was a little bit difficult in this movie because it didn't help for me to pal around with everybody off-screen. I couldn't get too friendly because of my role. So I couldn't enjoy my favorite part of filmmaking—having a good time on the set-on this movie. That was isolating but I did it on purpose.

You are obviously more interested in political issues than fashion. But what do you advise your own daughters in this society that puts too much emphasis on the body?

I am not completely objective about my daughters. They put on a T-shirt, they look fantastic, and what can I say. It is just their age. They are so beautiful but they think there is something dreadfully wrong with how they look. Maybe that is the function of the human condition but I think it is reinforced by the fashion magazines. I myself have felt that since I was a kid. I knew how inadequate those fashion pages made me feel. So I have always tried to tell my daughters that it is what they do, not how they look. It is what they do with their lives that count. But it is very hard in a culture that values only physical beauty.

What exactly do you tell them?

It is very hard to move them off the subject of their hair (laughter) or their shoes. We just constantly talk about things that are happening in the world. They come over a certain hump which is adolescence. We've come through it a number of times. At the other end, a person emerges who is not just fixed on whether her pores show or not. It is like the chrysalis of adolescence which is sort of terrifying and it is all about being on self-guard, paranoia and their appearance. But we try to emphasize on the other things in life.

On a more superficial level then, tell us about your closet.

We moved five times in the last six months. So over that time, I have really "de-acquisitioned," I have to say. Now it is down to stuff that I really love or I got for free in the movie. I don't know about you but in my personal life, there are only three things that I wear (laughter).

What are those three things then?

A certain pair of jeans, a shirt and a jacket. But I still have things from college. I do have things—it's tragic (laughter). But now with the girls, they just go in, raid and pillage my closet because they think everything is vintage and adorable (laughter). Anyway, I can't fit into them anymore so it is fine.

Why do you feel motherly towards young actresses?

I don't know how you could not be excited by these talents. These three actresses are just gorgeous talents—Anne Hathaway, **Lindsay Lohan** and **Renee Zellweger.** They are beautiful actresses who are capable of a wide range of work. It is exciting to think what they will be able to do. I think I am interested in them because I have three daughters myself. Although I don't really feel motherly. I feel that I am just interested in them.

Are your daughters following in your footsteps?

Yes. One of them is in a play that opened last night. She got a very good review in the New York Times.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

'Pogi, sa'n ang amo mo?'

PAOLO Bediones and Miriam Quiambao

COMPOSTELA VALLEY REP. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora must have gotten the shock of his life when he opened his door to the comic duo Maverick and Ariel for their show "Totoo TV" on ABC 5.

The naughty Ariel Villasanta asked, "*Pogi, sa'n ang amo mo?*"

Fortunately for Ariel—and the program—the congressman was a real sport.

Miriam and Paolo

Miriam Quiambao had joked and laughed with the entertainment press before she reportedly got distressed and "walked out" of her own press conference last week.

Show biz writers repeatedly teased her and "Pinoy Meets World" co-host Paolo Bediones by clinking their glasses, as in a wedding reception, to make the groom kiss the bride. The jesters went home disappointed.

BRITTANY Murphy REUTERS

Are they or aren't they?

SYDNEY—Apart from a brief statement confirming they are tying the knot, celebrity couple Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban have kept the wedding details a closely guarded secret.

Says Naomi Watts, who jetted in Wednesday for the pre-wedding bachelorette party, "I'm very excited for [Nicole]." But she added that she wasn't "at liberty" to discuss details. *AFP, AP*

Simon says ...

SIMON Cowell and David Hasselhoff REUTERS

NEW YORK—David Hasselhoff blames it on pal Simon Cowell's persuasiveness that he had signed on as a judge on "America's Got Talent," a new "Idol"-like reality show produced by the "American Idol" guru.

"He called me up and said, 'Would you do this? I said, 'I don't want to be a judge!' And he said, 'Come on, it's fun! You're funny!'"

But the 53-year-old actor-singer relented and is now one of show's three judges, along with singer Brandy and British journalist and TV personality Piers Morgan. *AP*

NICOLE Kidman REUTERS

RUSHES

Crudup & Hawke

NEW YORK—Billy Crudup, Ethan Hawke and Martha Plimpton form part of the cast of the New York production of "The Coast of Utopia," Tom Stoppard's trilogy of plays lasting more than nine hours, it was announced Tuesday.

"Utopia," directed by Jack O'Brien, starts with "Voyage," opening Nov. 5, moves on to "Shipwreck," opening Dec. 21, and finishes with "Salvage," opening Feb. 15. The engagement at the Vivian Beaumont Theater ends March 11.AP

From cat to dog

NEW YORK—William Thomas Evans once played the role of Old Deuteronomy in a regional production of "Cats," but he says he prefers his latest job playing a dog in a new musical about five dogs in a pound awaiting adoption.

"It's more fun playing a dog," said Evans, who plays a mutt called Speagle in the off-Broadway show "Tails" which opened in New York on Sunday. "It's very liberating." *Reuters*

NAOMI Watts REUTERS

CATHERINE Zeta Jones AP

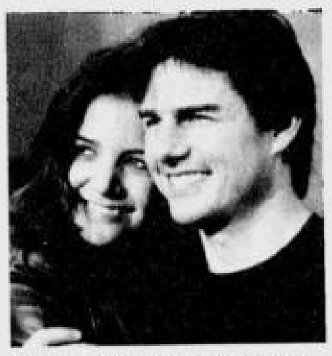
Hospital patron

CARDIFF, Wales—Welsh-born actress Catherine Zeta Jones on Tuesday visited a children's hospital in Cardiff that she has helped raise money to build.

The Children's Hospital for Wales, the first hospital solely for children in the principality.

Zeta Jones was accompanied by her husband, actor Michael Douglas. *AP*

Preston remembered



KATIE Holmes and Tom Cruise

INGLEWOOD, California—Joe Cocker sang, Little Richard reminisced, and hundreds of friends and relatives of Billy Preston celebrated his musical legacy during a funeral as vibrant as Preston himself.

Preston died June 6 in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 59. The mourners also heard letters written by Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and others who toured and recorded with Preston. AP

Voice for Tinker Bell

NEW YORK—Actress Brittany Murphy will be the Walt Disney Co.'s first-ever voice for Tinker Bell, giving the gift of speech to the precocious winged creature who until now communicated via facial expressions and jingling. *Reuters*

He wants 10 kids

TOKYO—Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise says he would be happy to father 10 children after he and his fiancee Katie Holmes had their first baby girl.

Cruise, 43, has two adopted children from a previous marriage to Nicole Kidman. *AFP*

More varied and innovative movies coming up

THE FILIPINO FILM INDUSTRY'S decades-long slump has wreaked many negative effects on local movie people's career and lives, but it has had a few positive consequences.

One upbeat outcome is the fact that the decline in film production and movie house attendance has forced producers to be more creative in conceptualizing new projects.

In the past, producers kept churning out a limited range of film types, and these facile quickies and sleazies eventually bored local viewers and prompted them to shift their allegiance and patronage to blockbusters from the United States.

Well, the few local movie producers who remain in business have learned their lesson, and are offering fresher and more varied film fare, the better to lure viewers back to theaters that screen Filipino productions.

This week, **Bong Revilla** is going comedy-romance-action with "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso (Not Once, But Twice)." The movie's mood reflects, not Bong's old action star persona, but his alternative comedy mode on his TV sitcom.

Other fresh elements include his first team-up with comedienne **Ai Ai de las Alas**, and the initial screen appearance of current Ms International titleholder, **Lara Quigaman**.

The movie's plot is also different: Bong's love, Lara, dies, and her heart is transplanted into Ai Ai, thus imbuing her with a subliminal attractiveness that captivates Bong, despite Ai Ai's "un-Lara" looks.

Also eagerly awaited is "Pacquiao, The Movie," with **Jericho Rosales** playing boxing champion **Manny Pacquiao**. True, there's a big disconnect in the looks department, but local moviegoers aren't sticklers for believability, so the film should survive the visual implausibility.

If it turns out to be exciting, affecting and well-made, the film should boost Jericho's career—and not a moment to soon, since his "Panday" series on TV has been less than a triumph.

Most local movies top-bill young stars, the better to appeal to the country's predominantly youthful demographic. But "I Wanna Be Happy" bucks the prevailing mindset by focusing on a couple (**Eddie Garcia** and **Gloria Romero**) about to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary!

The film delves into the joys and pains that characterize a Filipino marriage—and its aftermath. It's hoped that this emphasis on lessons learned in maturity rather than in callow youth can give viewers fresh food for thought—and empathy.

Other new productions further expand the range of local filmmaking today: "Sukob" is a chiller that reunites director **Chito Roño** and actress **Kris Aquino**. "**Zsa Zsa Zaturnah**" is the film version of a *komiks* strip and a stage musical.

"Kubrador" zeroes in on the country's *jueteng* "culture." "Oh, My Ghost" is a spoof of paranormal thrillers.

And this July, the second Cinemalaya alternative film festival will field nine digital features by new filmmakers that tackle a wide range of fresh and edgy topics and themes. —More innovative films coming up!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Josh Hutcherson

AFTER STARRING in the hit sci-fi movie "Zathura: A Space Adventure," child actor **Josh Hutcherson** plays **Robin Williams'** youngest and brattiest son in the new "road" comedy, "RV."

The initials stand for Recreational Vehicle, which is what the members of Williams' family take to go on a vacation. The trip is supposed to help them bond, but it has the opposite effect, as the unwieldy vehicle turns out to be difficult to navigate.

Cheryl Hives plays Williams' wife, and **Joanna "Jojo" Levesque** is their 15-year-old daughter, Cassie.

Joey Albert

CANADA-BASED singer **Joey Albert** will perform in an intimate musical show at the Le Salon ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel and Casino on June 23 and 24.

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2	CARS	11:40 , 2:15 , 4:50 7:25 , 10:00	GP

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4	THE LAKE HOUSE	10:45 , 1:00 , 3:15 5:30 , 7:45 , 10:00	PG13
5	SCARY MOVIE	10:40 , 1:00 , 3:15 5:30 , 7:45 , 10:00	R13

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MUSIC MUSEUM	JUNE 23,24&30,2006	NINA ... in VERY MANILOW	9:00PM
	JULY 8,2006	GLADYS GUEVARA	9:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
	JUNE 23 & 24, 2006	WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	8:00PM

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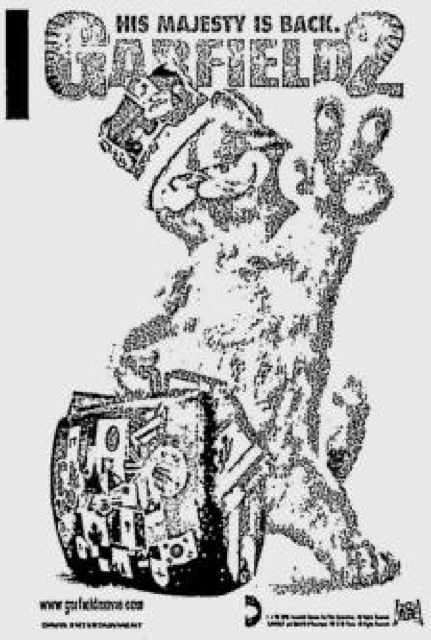

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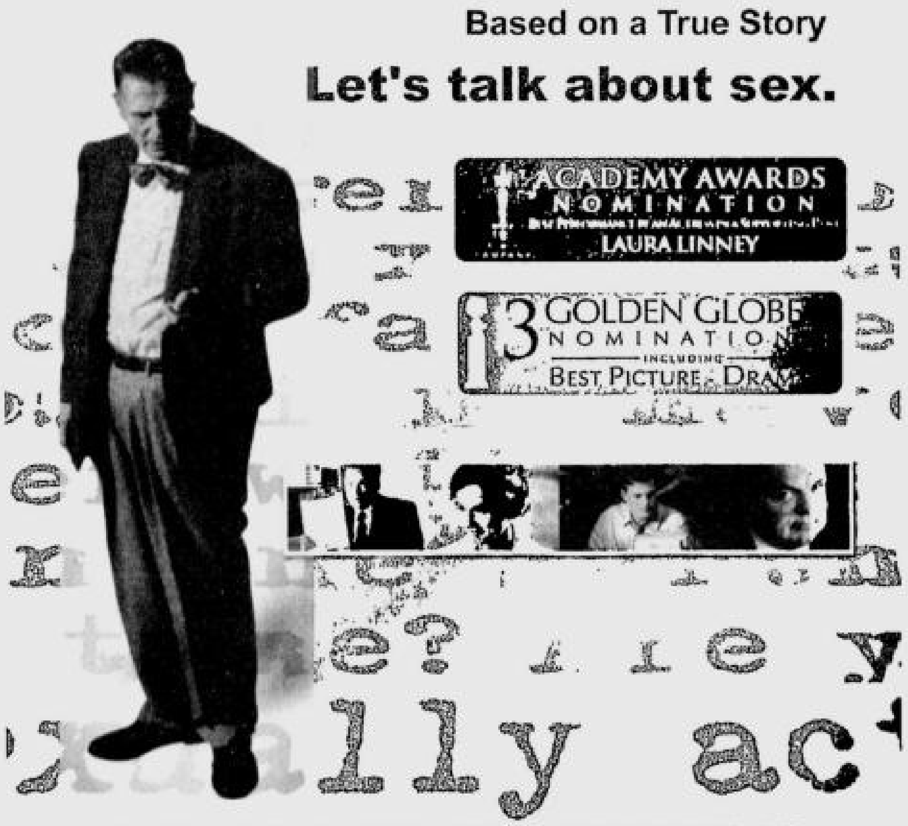

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2 SCARY MOVIE-4
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
PREVIEWS
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7269150
3 SCARY MOVIE-4
4 THE NUN
5 PACQUIAO

metropolis star cinema
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1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 SCARY MOVIE-4
3 THE NUN
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THEATRES
1 THE OMEN 666
2 PACQUIAO
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
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1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 PACQUIAO
3 RESERVED
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 THE NUN
2 CARS
3 GARFIELD-2
4 THE SECRET OF THE CODE
5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
6 SCARY MOVIE-4
7 THE LAKE HOUSE
8 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
9 AMERICAN HAUNTING
10 PACQUIAO

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341937
1 CARS
2 THE NUN
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 PACQUIAO

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 THE NUN
2 SCARY MOVIE - 4
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
5 PACQUIAO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 PACQUIAO
3 THE OMEN 666
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Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
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2 PACQUIAO
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SCARY MOVIE - 4
2 THE LAKE HOUSE

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 PACQUIAO

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
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2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 CARS

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2 PACQUIAO
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 GARFIELD - 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
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2 SCARY MOVIE - 4
3 GARFIELD - 2
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 PACQUIAO
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 X - MEN - 3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 PACQUIAO
3 GARFIELD - 2
4 THE OMEN 666

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1 PACQUIAO
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867738
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 THE OMEN 666

Llanas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 GARFIELD - 2

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1 THE OMEN 666
2 HALIK SA LUPA
3 WILD SIDE
4 CHAOS

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SCARY MOVIE - 4
2 TAOINIT
3 GARFIELD - 2
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
5 PACQUIAP

Fiesta World Mall
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1 THE OMEN 666
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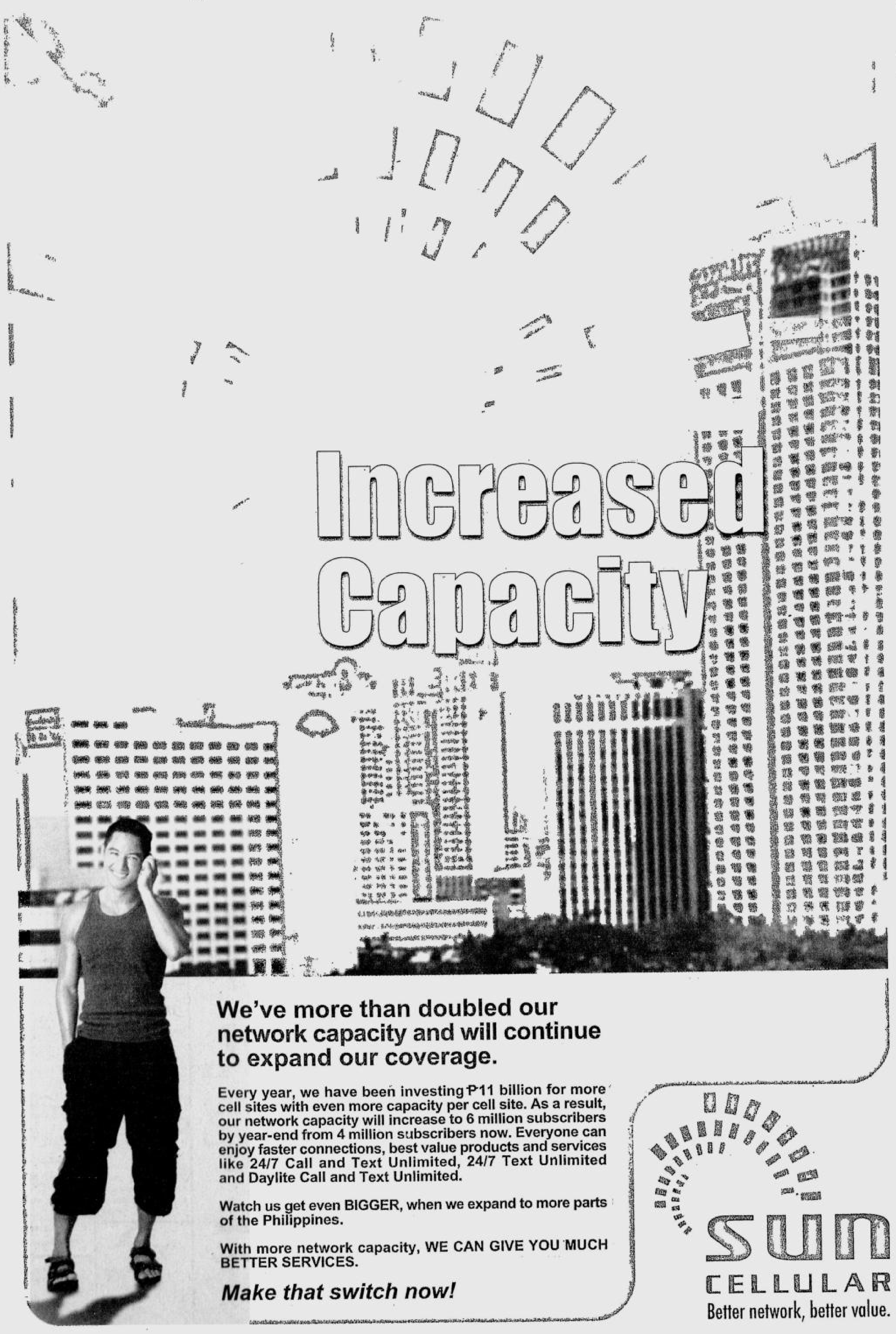

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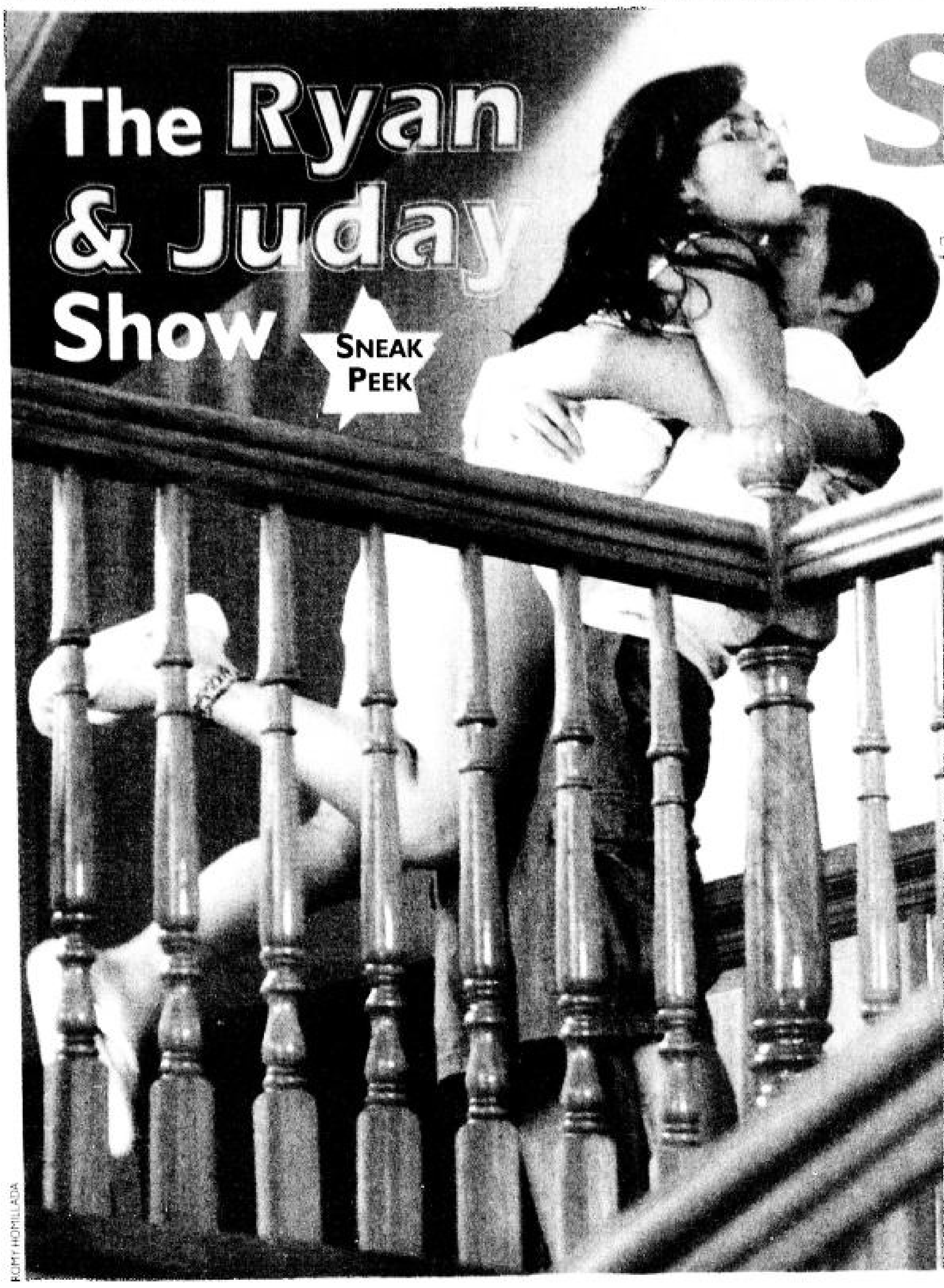
The Ryan & Juday Show

SNEAK PEEK



ROMY HOMILLADA

PAPARAZZI SHOTS OF SECRET HONEYMOON!
A rehearsal for their planned life together is more like it. Real-life sweethearts Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo topbill a forthcoming movie about newlyweds. Playing their parts to the hilt, they bring to the set three suitcases of clothes, foods galore, a microwave oven and their PlayStation Portable. More sizzling pictures in Sneak Peek, A3-2.

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JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Call it a multi-purpose room

FAVORITE NOOKS

MICHAEL V

We call this the multi-purpose room. Apart from the dining room, this is where the whole family converges to unwind. We have a similar room in our home in Cavite. ("Bitoy" now stays in Quezon City, just a stone's throw away from his studio, GMA 7).

This is where I compose my songs or paint ... also where I play video games, usually till the wee hours. The kids are asleep around that time.

Normally, when I go home after work, I'm still full of energy, enough to finish a two-hour film on TV. I watch a lot of movies on DVD here.

Marinel R. Cruz

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Embraced by the Light'

BOOKS

RITA AVILA

Betty J. Eadie's "Embraced by the Light" started my fondness for reading. I also gave copies to friends who, I knew, would be inspired and to people whose relatives recently passed away—to comfort them. It's about a woman who dies and comes back to life after a few minutes. In the book, she recounts her brief experience in Heaven. After reading the book, I was not afraid of death anymore. Last month, I finished "The Kite Runner." It's Khaled Hosseini's first novel. It really made me cry. It's about two little boys—one is a servant, the other is the master's son. The servant loves the rich boy wholly. But in the beginning, the rich boy was always mean to him. When they grew up, the rich boy changed his awful ways. This book made me treasure true friendship.

(Rita is fond of reading inspirational books. Part of her collection is "Eleven Minutes," which she is reading in this photograph. "Eleven Minutes," by Paulo Coelho, is about a naive young woman from Brazil who becomes a high-class prostitute in Switzerland.)

Marinel R. Cruz

The Ryan & Juday Show

Their at-work essentials, not necessarily in order: food, fun, laughter, love

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SNEAK PEEK

"LIKE A PICNIC."

This is how Judy Ann "Juday" Santos describes the set of Star Cinema's "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," her first movie with sweetheart Ryan Agoncillo.

"All we do is cook and eat," she tells INQUIRER Entertainment. "But since we're both on the South Beach diet right now, we bring only healthy food like salads, peanuts, and different kinds of light cheeses."

"I love what I'm doing now," Juday says. "I get to personally cook for him."

Ryan, that is, who brings a microwave oven to the set, one of their "on-set essentials." To reheat their food anytime.

Director Jose Javier Reyes is on the same diet.

Video games

Another must-have for Ryan and Juday is their PlayStation Portable, fondly nicknamed "Popoy."

"She's a video-game addict," Ryan says of Juday. "She likes Pac Man and other RPGs (role-playing games)."

Ryan himself is hooked on first-person shooter games like Dead to Rights.

Clothes, too

The right wardrobe is also essential, of course.

"I usually bring along two suitcases of clothes, a big makeup kit that comes with mirror and lights, and separate luggage for shoes," Juday says.

"I lug around three huge plastic containers of clothes," Ryan says.

A stylist is also on board.

"Since it's our first movie, we don't want our fans to see the same Juday and Ryan they've already seen on (TV shows) 'Krystala,' 'Komiks' or 'Maalaala Mo Kaya,'" Juday explains.

Their being a real-life couple is a big bonus in the acting department, according to *Direk* Joey, since it makes them very much at ease with each other.

Even so, Juday and Ryan admit to first-day jitters.

"It seemed awkward because we had to act sweet in front of 50 strangers on the set," Ryan says.

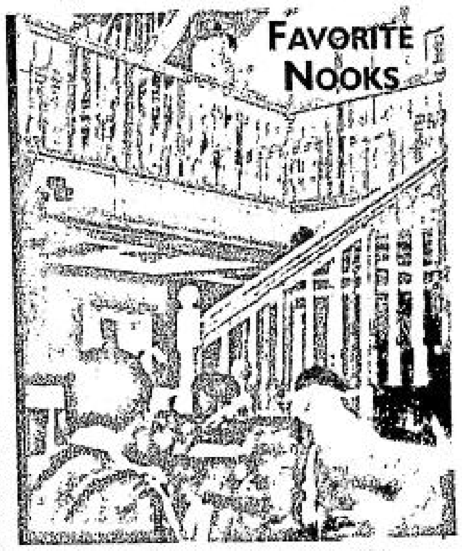
"But we got over it soon enough. *Direk* reminded us that we didn't have to act, we just had to be ourselves," Juday adds.

They consult one another about their acting.

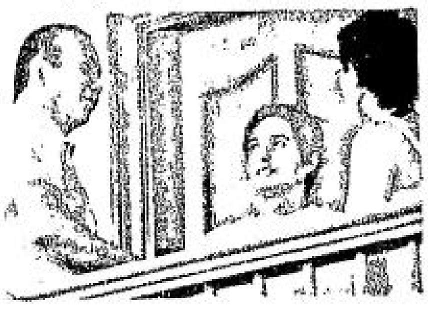
When in doubt, Ryan says they just go back to the script (also by *Direk* Joey). "It's about problems that everyone encounters in real life. If you've ever been half of a couple, you'll recognize yourself in this movie."

"When we were reading the script, we kept laughing," Juday says. "In this movie, we get to experience everything—fall in love, break up, reconcile, get married and fight while I'm pregnant."

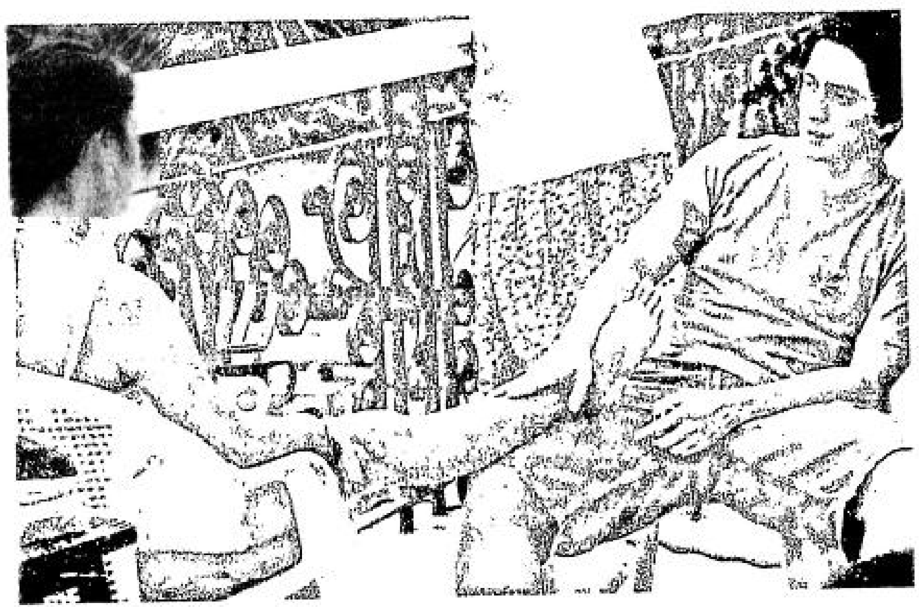
CUDDLING for the camera—ours. PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



PLAYING honeymooners in front of 50 strangers was a breeze, they say, because of "Direk" Joey Reyes (below, left).



JUDAY wipes Ryan's back dry.



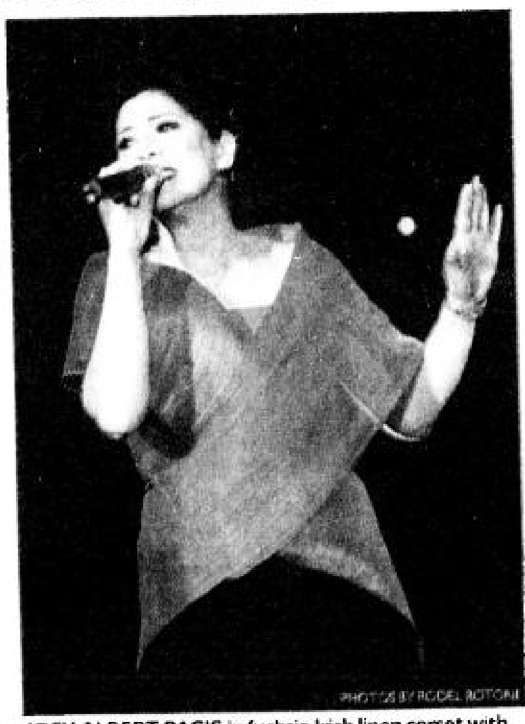
A FOOT massage between takes

Stunning costumes for a superb show

SHOW STOPPERS

FOR THE REunion concert of the five generations of the New Minstrels at Aliw Theater last weekend, four name designers created the stunning costumes.

In other words, the costumes were almost as *bongga* as the landmark show, which had loyal fans of the talent-laden congregation swooning, stomping to the beat, and smiling ear-to-ear for nearly two hours.



PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

JOEY ALBERT-PACIS in fuchsia Irish linen corset with tangerine babana fiber wrap by Dita Sandico-Ong

CLOCKWISE from left: In black evening wear by Goulee Gorospe, Ems Bolaños, Kash Gatuslao, Jinky Somera, Dingdong Fernando, Alynna, Bobbit Pablo, Rhiza Tolentino-dela Cruz; Ding Mercado in velvet outfit by Raoul Ramirez; Louie Reyes, Annette Belen, Mei-Ling Fuentes, Eileen Dolina-Novak and Aida Balmaceda-Surla in Raoul Ramirez blazers.

JINKY SOMERA in a black lace number by Goulee Gorospe

ALYNNA in a haltered top with low waist skirt by Goulee Gorospe

FROM LEFT, Grace Pimentel, Jessica Cabasal, Louanne Cuenco and Arlene Arcilla in empire-cut tops with bow over black palazzo pants by Rene Viola

LOUANNE CUENCO in Rene Viola outfit, up close

PATTI MANUEL-GO in another version of Dita Sandico-Ong.

LEAD star Gina Pareño with Direk Jeffrey Jeturian RYAN LIM

DAPHNE Oseña and Robbie Tan RYAN LIM

New moms & winners

PARTY! PARTY!

WE PREVIEWED one movie and one clothes shop this week, and went to the Awit Awards.

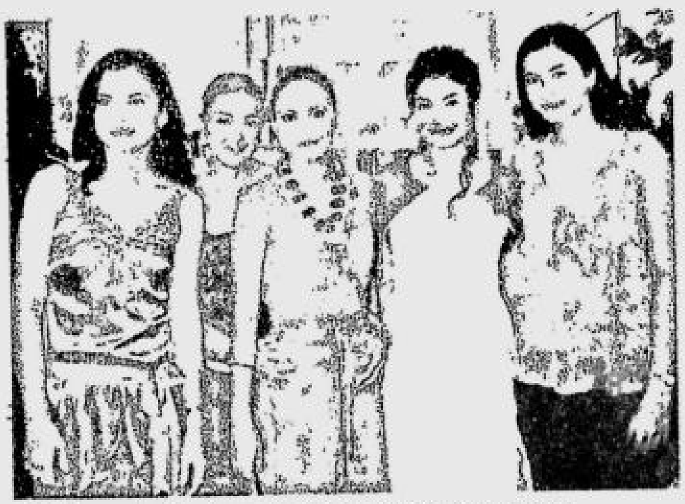
Just to see the stars.

At the opening of Petit Monde at SM Mall of Asia, we bumped into new moms Sunshine Cruz and Jodi Santamaria; the store chain's first image model, Ana Roces, and current endorsers Anne Curtis and Cheska Garcia.

Newly returned (to the scene) Gina Pareño was the toast of the "Kubrador" preview at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.

During the Awit Awards at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque, we caught some recording artists at their giddiest!

PAREÑO with producer Joji Alonso RYAN LIM



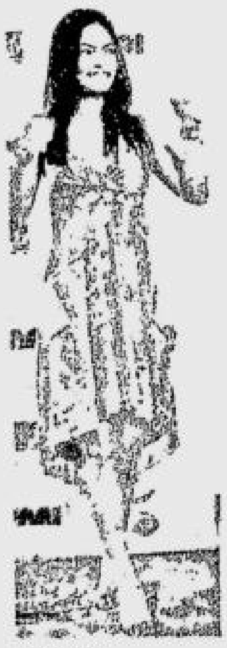
ANA Roces, Jodi Santamaria, Cheska Garcia, Anne Curtis and Sunshine Cruz at Petit Monde opening

ANA Roces and daughter Carmella

PAROKYA ni Edgar at the Awit Awards JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JETT PANGAN and JB Leonor of The Dawn JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

KEITH Martin (above) and Donita Rose (right) JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



LOVI Poe JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PUPIL JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JED Madela

SANDWICH

RAFFY LERMA

Aflu, Korak, Queme

TAIL TALES

JOHN LAPUS

Aflu, a Shitzu, is 4 years old. He is an offspring of Eugene Domingo's dog, Praise. I also take care of two puppies—Korak is Maltese, Queme is Yorkshire terrier.

I can really relate with Aflu. I found out only recently that dogs like him are called *bakla*. You see, he only has one testicle. Dog owners won't let their female dogs mate with Aflu. They say there's a possibility that the offspring will have only one testicle as well. Even dogs suffer discrimination. I find this depressing.

I make sure that my dogs are well taken care of. They visit the veterinarian every quarter for grooming. Aflu is always sporting a "puppy cut," since I don't have time to comb his hair every day. Korak's hair is so soft, it's like cotton candy. Queme is still a baby. He's so *makulit*; He's still in potty training.

Marinel R. Cruz

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THE NUN
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
GARFIELD 2
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
SCARY MOVIE 4
CINEMA 2
LAKE HOUSE

SM NORTH EDSA
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
THE NUN
LAKE HOUSE
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KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
AMERICAN HAUNTING
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SCARY MOVIE 4

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CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

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XMEN III
SECRET OF THE CODE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY MANILA
CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SECRET OF THE CODE
AMERICAN HAUNTING
GARFIELD 2
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
THE OMEN
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE NUN
XMEN III
LAKE HOUSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SCARY MOVIE 4
CARS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
LAKE HOUSE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
SCARY MOVIE 4
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY SUCAT
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
INSIDE MAN
TAKE THE LEAD

SM CITY BATANGAS
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

SM CITY LUCENA
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE OMEN
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

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SCARY MOVIE 4
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CHAOS
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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

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SCARY MOVIE 4
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INSIDE MAN
LAKE HOUSE
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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY MOLINO
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
GARFIELD 2
LAKE HOUSE

SM CITY STA. ROSA
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
GARFIELD 2
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
SECRET OF THE CODE
FAST AND FURIOUS
SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE
THE OMEN
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
XMEN III

SM CITY ILOILO
INSIDE MAN
RESERVED
CARS
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
SCARY MOVIE 4
GARFIELD 2
RESERVED
THE OMEN

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SCARY MOVIE 4
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SECRET OF THE CODE
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
AQUAMARINE
INSIDE MAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN
THE OMEN
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
AQUAMARINE
INSIDE MAN

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'You want to stand out? Suffer to death'

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OUT OF THE CLOSET

ARIEL Villasanta, co-host of ABC 5's "Totoo TV"

FUNNYMAN ARIEL VILLASANTA CONsiders Joey de Leon his mentor. He was the veteran comedian's assistant for four years.

"Joey used to tell me, 'Everyone wants to be a comedian, but making people laugh is not something you can just learn.' *Kung hindi mo linya, 'wag pilitin,*" Ariel told Inquirer Entertainment during our visit to his home in Marikina City.

He is half of the duo Maverick & Ariel of ABC 5's "Totoo TV." He is also seen on "Wala 'Yan Sa Lola Ko," on the same channel, with partner Maverick Relova.

Ariel also works as a creative director for the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, where he has been working for 15 years now.

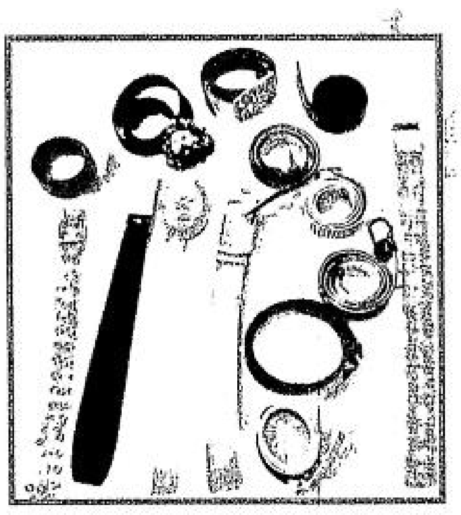
"I used to tell myself that someday, when I become famous, I would be like him," Ariel said of his idol. "I would find my own place in the industry. I would be different from the rest."

Different can also be used to describe Ariel's fashion sense. "I would wear an all-pink get-up to school. *Pati yosi ko,* pink," he said. "Sometimes, I showed up in all-green or all-yellow outfits."

He is also very much into gothic fashion, Ariel said.

"Extremes, actually," he said, adding, "I can go either gothic or floral. *Pero wala akong gitna.* I like all color combinations, except brown and green—*para kasing puno.*"

During this visit, Ariel showed Inquirer Entertainment clothes that he designed himself, and souvenirs from Joey. He also gave tips for finding great outfits.


CUSTOM-MADE belts. Ariel buys raw materials and asks his tailor to make them into belts.

SUITS

I wore this to the Enpress Awards show two years ago. I was nominated for Best Comedian for "Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel." I designed this suit myself. It's a combination of "Matrix" and "Dracula." I bought the materials from fabric shops everywhere.

I used to buy stuff from *ukay-ukay* shops, but I rarely find clothes there that fit me well.

The suit I wore at the Star Awards is also memorable. *Na-okray halos lahat ng pumunta do'n* except me. It is similar to my Enpress suit.

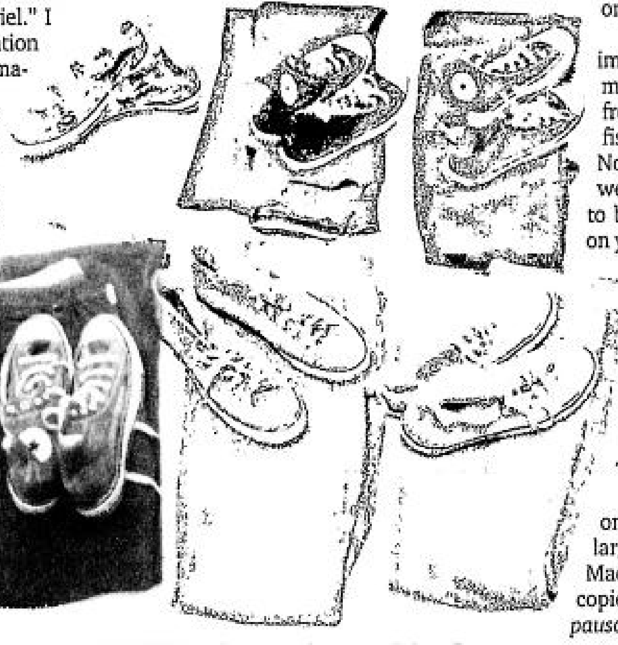
A tip for those who want to save money when buying suits: Buy one piece from a good brand like Linea Italia, then have your tailor copy it.

SHIRTS

Almost all my shirts are tailor-made. I could only count with my fingers those that I bought from clothes shops or those from the *ukay-ukay* in Bambang.

For my shirts, I have a few requirements: They should have big collars, hug the body and be made of fabrics that don't easily wrinkle.

Only Julio Iglesias wore something like this when he was younger (shows a white long-sleeved button down shirt). I bought the fabric myself. It's made up of the material that women use for veils in the olden times. I think this is called lace.


HE LIKES ladies pants because "they fit nicely in the crotch area." He has matching sneakers for these curdoroy numbers.

ACCESSORIES

I was already wearing belts this wide even before the likes of J Lo (Jennifer Lopez) popularized them. You cannot buy anything like this here [in the early '90s]. I bought leather in Marikina and then some of these metal rings and buckle elsewhere. I asked my tailor to make it into a belt.

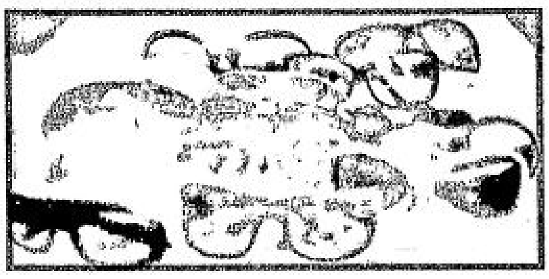
I go to antique shops, the kind where you can buy old coins. That's where you will find one-of-a-kind necklaces or rings.

The more eccentric, the better. What's important is that you have confidence. If my friends wore this, (shows a ring made from glass that's almost half the size of his fist), *mapapagkamalan silang may tama.* Not everyone can wear the kind of stuff we wear. You have to have guts. You have to believe that what you wear looks good on you.

EYEWEAR

My favorite eyewear is from Cazal. This is a rare find, from Germany. I surfed the Net and found out that this costs around P30,000. I bought this by chance at an optical shop in Greenhills. Nobody pays attention to this piece. They don't know this is a good brand.

The kind of shades you wear depends on the shape of your face. Personally, I find large frames classier. If you think about it, Madonna and the women in her batch just copied this from Jackie Onasis. *Siya ang nagpauso n'yan.*


LARGE frames are "classier."

JACKETS

I like black or white jackets. Brown looks old. As for the cut, I like the ones that are fit close to the body because they make you look smart. Ill-fitting jackets make you look lousy. Don't buy padded ones, except if you have drooping shoulders.

NOT EVERYONE can wear his kind of stuff, he says, like this retro jacket.

ONCE IN a while, he surprises his officemates at PLDT by dressing up.

AUTHENTIC '70s jacket from his mentor and idol Joey de Leon.

ARIEL'S prized possession: a 1967 Lincoln Continental with "suicide" door

This black jacket (with a woman's face printed on it) is quite memorable. It was a gift from Joey de Leon. This is an authentic '70s jacket. Vintage *ito.* This is a picture of one of his chicks (laughs).

Sometimes, I wear this biker's jacket in the office. *Sobrang lamig kasi do'n.*

TOY COLLECTION

Maverick collects all kinds of action figures; I collect the villains. *'Yung mga nakakatakot.* I have a 12-inch Chucky Doll, Darth Maul, Freddie Kruger and Pin Head from the 'Hellraiser' series.

SHOES

I like these canvas sneakers because they're unique (shows a printed pair of Converse Comic Strip Chuck Taylor). I started collecting Chucks when Joey de Leon gifted me with my first pair five years ago. That pair was inspired by the American flag.

For malling or simply for going out, I like wearing my ever-reliable running shoes. *Pero 'pag pormahan,* I wear these (pointy black leather boots).

My pair of white boots was bought at the Marikina Shoe Expo. This the kind that the late action stars Jun Aristorenas and Tony Ferrer wear in their movies.

PANTS

Loud-colored pants are not for malling. I prefer basic blue jeans. I also like pants made from camouflage fabric. Pants in corduroy are good, too. They're perfect when paired with Converse sneakers.

I actually wear pants made for women. I get them from Teranova. They fit well in the crotch area. *Gusto mong pumorma? Magtiis ka.*

OFFICE WEAR

I don't like to stand out when I'm in the office. I'm just one of the boys. I wear polo shirts and neckties or *barong* Tagalog when I need to. But once in a while, I surprise my officemates by coming to the office wearing a tight-fitting *barong.*

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₱1.42B in limbo

THE ENTRY OF SOUTH KOREAN INVESTORS willing to sink in P1.42 billion in investments to develop the former Mimosa Leisure Estate is being delayed due to allegations of a rigged bidding.

Ronnel Domingo writes that the Mimosa case, if left unresolved, may discourage foreign investors from doing business in the country. See story on page 5.

Website: www.inq7money.net

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Goldilocks wants more than P2B /B3

Think long term, US bank advises investors /B12

Globe slams Smart anew

Ayala unit criticizes 'monopolistic' pricing scheme of PLDT's twin telcos

By Daxim L. Lucas

GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS ASKED telecommunications regulators to stop a promo of its two main rivals, which the Ayala-controlled unit claims will create a "virtual monopoly" in the mobile phone service market.

In a letter filed earlier this week, Globe Telecom asked the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to put an end to the "All Day Texting 258 Call+Text Promo" being offered by Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.—both of which are owned by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., itself a telephone monopoly during the Marcos era.

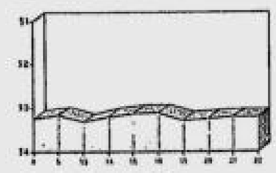
"In implementing these promotional offerings only between the two, [Smart and Piltel] are acting in concert to corner the market and thus create a virtual monopoly," said Rodolfo A. Salalima, Globe senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs.

Under the scheme, Smart and Piltel subscribers who sign up for the promo will be entitled to send an unlimited number of text messages and a single five-minute call within a 24-hour period for a fee of only P20. The promo is exclusive to users of Smart and

GLOBE/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.21 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 22, 2006

¥ 115.20 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 22, 2006

GOLD: **$576.90-577.40**

per ounce Hong Kong, June 21, 2006

Shares close 1.93% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.93 percent higher, snapping a three-day losing streak as Wall Street's overnight rally prompted

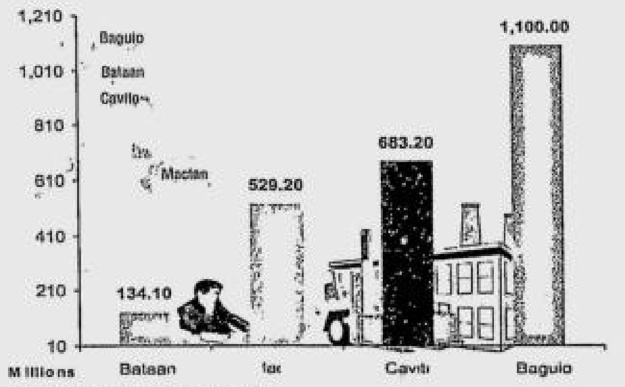
SHARES/ B5

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Ecozone earnings up in 2006
(January to April 2006, in million US dollars)

Total earnings from the country's ecozones increased in the first four months of 2006 to $10.7 billion, from $9.6 billion in the same period last year. The four public ecozones in Baguio, Cavite, Mactan and Bataan registered a total of $2.5 billion.



Kate V. Pedroso PDI Research

Source: Philippine Economic Zone Authority

BIR expects to collect beyond ₱46-B tax target set for June

By Michelle V. Remo

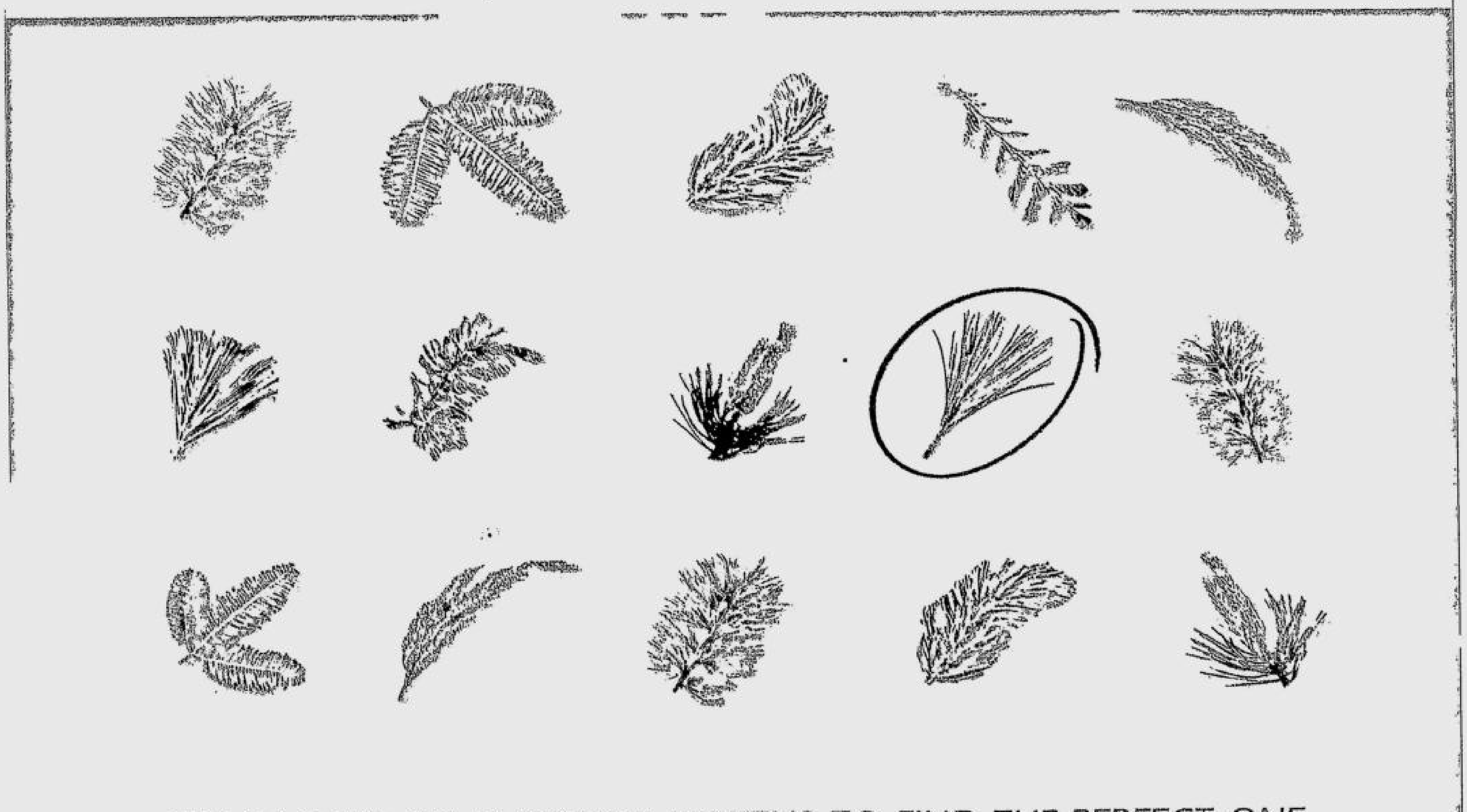
THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue claims that it will likely exceed its P46-billion tax collection target for June due to the implementation of several revenue-raising measures, boosting its chances to meet its full-year goal despite shortfalls of the previous months.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag told President Macapagal-Arroyo that he had a positive outlook on the revenue agency's collection performance in June, adding that the initiatives to enhance collection had started to create an impact on revenues.

He said the BIR might exceed its target by some P334 million. The BIR was tasked to collect P46.009 billion for the

BIR/ B5

Brittany



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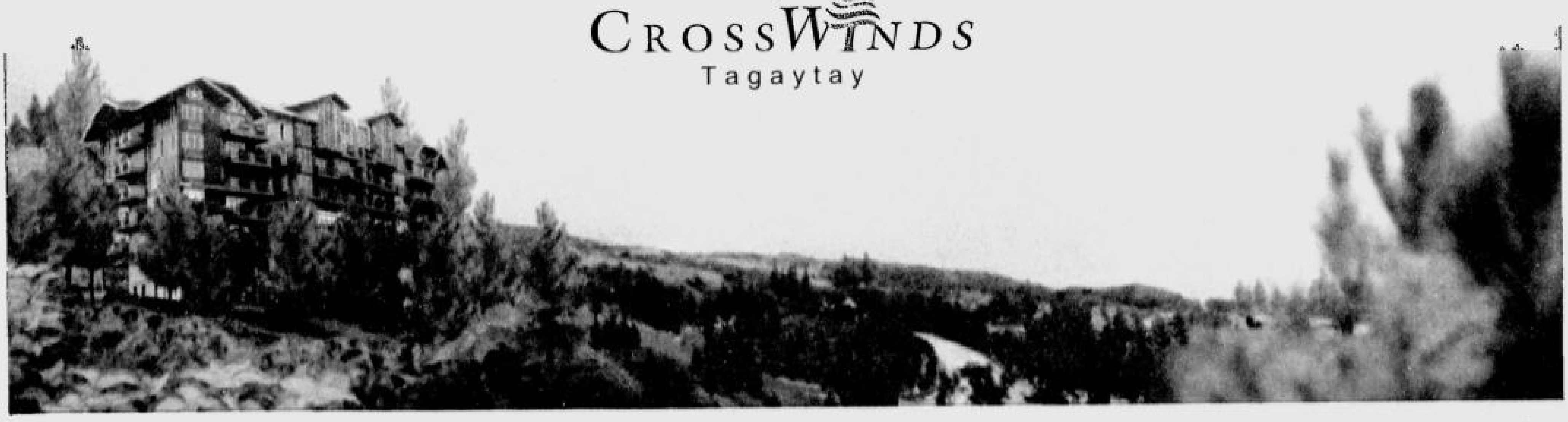

Special fiscal incentives readied for mining projects

Only firms in 20 poorest provinces seen to qualify

By Michelle V. Remo

THE MINING SECTOR, SEEN TO ATTRACT as much as $7 billion worth of investments yearly, is likely to get special perks under the government's program to rationalize the granting of fiscal incentives.

The Senate committee on ways and means, headed by Sen. Ralph Recto, is set to file a bill that will withdraw tax and duty breaks that are deemed unnecessary.

But a government official said Recto had asked concerned government agencies—the Department of Finance, the Department of Energy and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—to assist the ways and means committee in the conduct of a study to determine the appropriate incentives for the mining sector.

Recto's proposed bill was aimed at limiting the granting of fiscal incentives only to exporters, effectively removing all tax- and duty-free privileges given to domestic-oriented firms. But the senator said mining firms not engaged in exports could still be given incentives, such as reduced income tax rate and the application of net operating loss carryover (nolco), according to the source.

The committee on ways and means is looking at requiring mining firms to pay only a 15-percent tax on their net income, much lower than the 35-percent rate slapped on corporate taxpayers.

Nolco allows preferred companies to deduct previous years' losses from their taxable incomes for the current year, thereby reducing their tax liabilities.

Under the Senate committee's plan, however, only mining firms located in the countrys 20 poorest provinces would qualify for the special incentives.

The DOF is now gathering data on local government incomes to identify the provinces that would be covered.

The plan to provide special tax perks to mining firms came with the government's bullish projections on the economic potentials of the industry.

The National Economic and Development Authority earlier estimated that the industry could generate investments of between $5 billion and $7 billion a year in the medium term. The Neda said the country has about $840 billion to $1 trillion worth of still untapped mineral wealth.

The Neda also said that with the estimated potential investments in mining, the government could collect between P17 billion and P23 billion in additional taxes a year.

The country's mining industry was said to have been placed on international investors' radar screen following a Supreme Court decision in December 2004 declaring as constitutional the participation of foreign firms in mining activities.

The Senate committee on ways and means is concerned removing fiscal incentives from the mining industry might derail investment plans for the sector, which are seen to boost the country's economic growth.

Standards in agriculture and retirement

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

SINCE THE RETIREMENT INDUSTRY WAS made a Presidential Flagship Program last May 30 with the potential of creating 4 million jobs and $44 billion in 10 years, much attention has been given to the coming July 3 First Retirement Industry and Investment Summit. Many retirement-related lessons can be learned from the experiences of agriculture. This is especially true in the area of conforming strictly to identified global standards.

Agriculture-retirement link

The goal is to attract at least 900,000 new foreign retirees in 10 years. Assuming a conservative food cost of P33 per retiree's meal, this translates to P34 trillion per year, or 1,000 times the annual budget legally mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act.

In order to attract foreign retirees, we must provide them food that meets global standards. Otherwise, word will spread that we cannot meet these standards, and they will go to other countries.

We must realize that these retirees are like our foreign clients who import our food products. We must provide them with agriculture and processed food products of sufficiently high quality as determined by internationally accepted global standards.

When I was agriculture undersecretary in 2002, a very sad experience happened to our okra farmers. One of them exported to Japan an okra shipment that did not meet that country's phythosanitary standards. As a result, Japan imposed a temporary ban on all Filipino okra exports. Hundreds of farmers were forced to a standstill, resulting in massive job and financial losses.

A similar experience happened to our *nata de coco.* We were the first and the best in this area for exports to Japan. But because of ill-defined standards resulting in food quality inconsistency, the Japanese hesitated buying from the Philippines. We have since taken action on this matter, but the damage to our reputation has been done.

As the momentum for our retirement industry escalates, we must ensure that the food we provide our retirees meets global standards.

Imagine the retirees writing their compatriots in their home countries that they cannot get good food. We will not only lose our current retirees who are potentially our best sales people for Philippine retirement, we will also lose the large population of retirees yet to come. Good news travels fast. But as our agriculture experience has shown, bad news travels even faster.

Standards of retirement

The lessons learned on food standards could be applied in other retirement-related areas. Foreigners feel comfortable going to a McDonalds's outlet in any country because they know they will get a food package following the same strict standards.

Jollibee follows the same principle of identifying first and then complying with high standards. This shows that Filipinos can match other nationalities in standards compliance, and even surpass them because of our other unique attributes.

I personally studied a Las Vegas retirement home with four retirees generating a combined monthly income of $14,000 or about P700,000. However, this home, like all other Las Vegas retirement homes, are not allowed to operate unless they comply with identified global standards.

From my investigation, I concluded that many middle class Filipinos can enter this retirement business and easily meet these same standards. Millions of jobs can then be provided.

In addition, we can provide the dual benefit to the retirees of much better healthcare service (for which we are unmatched in reputation the world over), as well as much lower costs. Furthermore, our respect and ingrained compassion for older people will result in foreign retirees getting the deserved attention they may not get in their home countries.

Today, we cannot aggressively promote our nursing homes because we have not identified the requisite global standards, nor established the appropriate strict standards compliance system.

Conclusion

Our retirement industry should not suffer the same sad fate of our *nata de coco* exports that suffered a severe setback because of lack of defined standards. Nor should it encounter the same problem of the okra industry, which was put on hold because of a weak standards compliance system.

Instead, our nursing homes and other retirement facilities should identify globally accepted standards that should be strictly complied with. Franchises can be initiated in this area, so that predictability and consistency of quality service are assured in the same way McDonalds and Jollibee does this for food.

Retirement and agriculture are inextricably linked. Food is a critical necessity to the retirees, and the retirees provide a huge market that will benefit the quantity and quality of jobs in the agricultural sector. However, for these two industries to succeed, both must pay special attention to the identification of and compliance with globally accepted standards.

These and other similar issues will be discussed on July 3, 2006 by national and international experts in the First Retirement Industry and Investment Summit in Makati Shangri-La Hotel. For more information, please call Ethel Ruffa at 8481412 to 16 (local 119).

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

Securities lending, borrowing scheme backed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange's plan to allow stock brokers to borrow shares for trading could generate as much as $1 billion worth of stock lending flows, visiting officials of Hong Kong-registered Pan Asia Securities Lending Association (Pasla) said in a briefing yesterday.

Pasla is an association of 40 companies engaged in the business of borrowing and/or lending securities of listed firms in Asian markets.

Sunil Daswani, Pasla chair, said the Philippines could contribute a fraction of 1 percent or about $500 million to $1 billion in stock lending deals to Asia's $250 billion worth of securities lending flows at any given time.

The Securities and Exchange Commission recently approved the PSE's securities borrowing and lending (SBL) proposal, which involves the lending of securities through brokers to enhance market liquidity.

PSE president Francis Lim said the PSE could tap state pension funds such as the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) to be part of the PSE's SBL program.

Daswani added that foreign merchant funds and domestic investors were expected to participate in the SBL program once the rules were finalized and implemented.

Lim said the SBL rules would likely be implemented in the fourth quarter pending the resolution of certain issues, including those involving taxes.

SBL involves lending of shares to a borrower who needs them to support settlement obligations or trading strategies. Shares are transferred from one party to another without any change in the actual or beneficial owner of the shares involved.

SBL transactions would allow a lender—whether he is an active or passive investor in a listed stock—to earn extra income on top of his dividends.

SBL also facilitates the development of other trading strategies such as "short-selling" or the practice of selling a share that is not owned by the investor or broker who sold them, and then replacing it later by buying the share at a lower price. A short seller bets that the price of the stock will go down. He sells it today at a higher price, then buys it tomorrow at a lower price, gives it back to the lender and pockets the difference.

Thrift banks want a piece of trust business

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas was urged to relax capital regulations on thrift banks wishing to engage in the trust business.

This, according to Chamber of Thrift Banks and BPI Family Bank president Alfonso Salcedo Jr., will open up opportunities for smaller banks to handle accounts from the insurance sector.

In yesterday's membership meeting of CTB, Salcedo reported that the organization had proposed the lowering of minimum capital requirements on those seeking authority to engage in the trust business, particularly trusteeship and fiduciary, to P325 million for Metro Manila-based thrift banks and P100 million for those outside Metro Manila from the current level of P650 million.

For thrift banks that intend to go into full trust business, the proposal was to maintain the P650-million minimum capital requirement.

The proposal, if approved, will allow the thrift banks with capitalization of less than P650 million to accept deposits from insurance companies, Salcedo said.

For its part, the BSP is developing a broader category of trust products which are differentiated in terms of the trust department's level of fiduciary responsibility.

"Rather than regulate on a per product basis, the idea is to define very clearly the framework and the categories of the products," BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision Nestor Espenilla Jr. said in a separate interview.

This will make the regulations clearer to the market, he said. "I twill also facilitate better supervision, so we will no longer have to play a cat-and-mouse game whenever there's a new product in the market," Espenilla added.

In the meantime, Salcedo said the CTB was likewise working with the BSP towards the standardization of contract-to-sell scheme for housing, an initiative intended to result in lower risk-weighting.

On the required submission of income tax returns and audited financial statements by bank borrowers, Salcedo said the BSP would release amendments to a circular on the matter.

"While the BSP accepted our proposal for the exemption of loans to small enterprises from the requirement, giving this sector a period of two years within which to comply, the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) reportedly denied this request," Salcedo said.

"In this regard, the CTB and BSP agreed to write formally to the BIR to seek its support for an information drive that will help drive the SME (small and medium enterprise) sector on the new requirement," he said.

Finally, CTB is also supporting the legislation of the proposed "Credit Information System Act" in both houses of Congress.

"The measure is seen to improve the reliability of credit information lowering overall credit risk and ultimately expand credit capacity," Salcedo said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 22, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	384,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	43.5	44.5	5,470,300
China Banking Corp.	865	870	865	870	1,670
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	200
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,070,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72	72.5	71.5	72.5	167,500
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	12,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31	633,600
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	50,100
Phil. Savings Bank	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	5,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	43	43	42	42	14,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	42	42	42	42	18,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2055	2040	2055	360
Ivantage Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.28	5,676,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	43	42	43	82,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	63,100
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	2,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	20.75	21	1,079,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7.1	377,000
Petron Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3,099,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.94	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	60,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	71,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	53,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	400,400
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.75	229,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	790,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	151,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71	72.5	71	72.5	41,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.18	1.28	1.18	1.28	5,281,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	157,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	70,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities, Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.0675	0.0675	163,400,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	12,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	342.5	345	337.5	337.5	149,380
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.6	0.53	0.57	7,310,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,373,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	7,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.86	1.86	549,000
APC Group Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	45,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.96	0.9	0.94	880,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	5,140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.75	3.6	3.7	923,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	1,016,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	55,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	627,000
Keppel Holdings	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	310,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	5,000,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	217	211	214	58,220
South China Resources Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	4,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	11	4,139,500
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	60,000
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	416,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	15,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	4,820,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	6,466,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	210,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	28,252,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	1,640,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	220,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10	10	10	10	263,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	4,700,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	30,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	44,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	4,766,000
Globe Telecom Inc	895	930	895	930	10,920
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.3	1,842,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1810	1800	1800	67,800
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	3,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.28	2.28	1,485,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	2,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	80,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	345,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	477,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	313,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.06	2.08	2	2	300,000
Paxys Inc.	9.9	10	9.9	10	49,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	105,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.5	7.1	6.5	7	3,529,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	16,770,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	10,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.022	128,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	78,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	1,000,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.85	4.05	3.85	4	16,872,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.95	4.05	3.85	3.95	22,528,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	30	28.5	30	443,100
Vulcan Ind'l	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	510,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	131,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.22	1.14	1.16	1,807,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.2	1.22	1.14	1.14	830,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	18	18.5	17.75	18.25	1,497,800
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14.25	573,100

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Philweb Corp.** has elected Ray C. Espinosa, Mariano L. Galicia Jr. and George H. Tan as directors on June 20.

***

JOSE Reinier H. Dizon, Ma. Ruby Sarah S. Nitorreda, Juan Miguel R. Montinola, Mary Margaret San Pedro, Edgardo R. Soriano and Renato C. Sunico were elected directors of **Fortune Cement Corp.** on June 21; Ceazar Lorenzo T. Veneracion III has been elected independent director. C.L. Manabat and Co. was likewise re-appointed as the company's independent auditors.

***

MIC Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26, 2 p.m. at the 8/F DPC Place, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of July 20 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 22, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.789640	1.000000	53.2060
Japan	Yen	0.006879	0.008711	0.4635
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456965	1.845100	98.1704
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101672	0.128758	6.8507
Switzerland	Franc	0.640006	0.810504	43.1237
Canada	Dollar	0.712286	0.902039	47.9939
Singapore	Dollar	0.496848	0.629208	33.4776
Australia	Dollar	0.580874	0.735619	39.1393
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.094647	2.652661	141.1375
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210548	0.266638	14.1867
Brunei	Dollar	0.495290	0.627235	33.3727
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020574	0.026055	1.3863
UAE	Dirham	0.214997	0.272272	14.4865
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.266400	67.3801
Argentina	Peso	0.256793	0.325203	17.3028
Brazil	Real	0.352833	0.446828	23.7739
Denmark	Kroner	0.134146	0.169883	9.0388
India	Rupee	0.017241	0.021834	1.1617
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215454	0.272851	14.5173
Mexico	New Peso	0.069300	0.087762	4.6695
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488639	0.618812	32.9245
Norway	Kroner	0.125593	0.159051	8.4625
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013106	0.016598	0.8831
South Africa	Rand	0.110171	0.139521	7.4234
Korea	Won	0.000826	0.001046	0.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.108560	0.137480	7.3148
Syria	Pound	0.015212	0.019264	1.0250
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024230	0.030685	1.6326
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000368	0.000466	0.0248

Goldilocks wants more than ₱2B

GOLDILOCKS HAS INDICATED that it wants more than the reported P2-billion offer made by Pancake House to acquire the country's biggest bake house chain.

"It is a well established and universal principle that any business is for sale, if the price is right," Goldilocks president Freddie Go said in a press statement. "Make us an offer we can't refuse."

Go said that only "a certain branch of the family" was willing to cash out, apparently referring to his sister-in-law Milagros Leelin-Yee.

Go is married to Milagros' younger sister, Clarita Leelin, who, together with their sister-in-law Doris Wilson-Leelin, started Goldilocks on Pasong Tamo in 1966.

From a first-day sale of P574, Goldilocks ended 2005 with more than P4 billion in domestic sales. From the 10 employees and two stands in that first store, Goldilocks has grown to 199 stores locally, and 17 branches in the United States and Canada.

The exponential growth apparently came starting in 1991, when Goldilocks started franchising. Of the 199 local stores, about two-thirds are controlled by franchises.

Go also disclosed that Pancake House CEO Martin Lorenzo first broached the idea of acquiring Goldilocks a decade ago, "but in 10 years, nothing really concrete has happened."

According to the grapevine, Milagros Leelin-Yee is now in the United States to persuade her sister, Clarita, who runs the US and Canada operations, to agree to the Pancake House acquisition.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Their sister-in-law, Doris, is now retired but would apparently go along with whatever course that may be undertaken by the extended family, which incidentally now includes the second generation also working for Goldilocks.

La Sallite rumble

THE PRO- AND ANTI- GMA alumni of the De La Salle University are still slinging arrows at each other.

The alumni association on Wednesday placed an ad in this paper, protesting the use of "DLSAA" in last week's advertisement, also in this paper, asking La Sallites to sign up in a Web-based campaign.

The Web-based campaign, apparently started by pro-GMA La Sallites, is protesting the use of the various De La Salle campuses by the La Salle Brothers in their resign/oust-GMA campaign.

"The DLSAA has not authorized the use of its trade name 'dlsaa' and is neither connected with this group nor has it sanctioned any advertisement," the alumni association said.

The web page, www.digeratical.com/dlsaa_signup.html, apparently emanates from a San Diego, California-based Internet services company.

Wash Sycip, the park

AS expected, a who's who in business, and even in politics, showed up in Tuesday's dinner at the Shangri-La to celebrate SGV founder Washington Sycip's 85th birthday.

Still, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was a no-show, and so was her resigned finance secretary, former SGV chair Cesar Purisima. But Fidel V. Ramos and Corazon Aquino were there.

Even low-key San Miguel president Ramon Ang surprised SGV officers by showing up at the cocktails, and positioning himself in the middle of the ballroom, despite the recent anti-SGV media campaign orchestrated by an SMC operative.

In any case, the cocktails and dinner went well, highlighted by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and the Zobel de Ayala family, in a rare display of unity, announcing the conversion of the Corinthian Plaza car park in Legaspi Village into a real park, to be named after the country's most famous numbers-cruncher.

Despite the planned conversion, the car park would still remain, only this time it would go underground.

Heard through the grapevine

INSTEAD of market forces determining insurance charges, Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Crisostomo-Escobillo has set the minimum rates for earthquake, fire and shock on buildings at 0.1 percent, and 0.05 percent for typhoon and flood protection.

Set to take effect Aug. 1, the base rates are said to be needed to prevent ruinous competition among the insurance companies.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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Balanced Fund	1.122025	1.132415
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These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week June 20, 2006	Last Week June 13, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.34249	1.33891
Managed Fund - Peso	1.46322	1.46827
Growth Fund - Peso	1.12703	1.14630
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2181	1.2199

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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A 'perfectly amazing deal'

JVC, SMART AND MOTOROLA HAVE launched "A Perfectly Amazing Deal". Buyers of any 21" (508 mm), 25" (600 mm) or 29" (676 mm) JVC flat TV can get the new Motorola C139 colored phone for only P499, with a free Smart Buddy prepaid SIM and a TV rack to boot.

Every purchase of JVC CTV models entitle buyers to one promo voucher, which must be presented along with the sales invoice and valid identification to get the Motorola C139 for just P499 from any Smart Wireless Center nationwide.

The promo is ongoing until June 30 and will apply to cash and installment purchases.

PSVARE, TIME HOLD F&B MANUTECH EXPO

The Philippine Society of Ventilating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigerating Engineers (PSVare) and the Training Institute for Manila Engineers (TIME) Foundation Inc is holding the 8th International Food and Beverage Manufacturing and Technologies Expo until today at the PICC Forum, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Dubbed as the country's only trade-focused F&B manufacturing and technologies exhibition, the F&B ManuTech Expo 2006 will focus on attaining international recognition by showcasing world-class products and equipment. This includes production, brewing, baking, packaging (bottling, retail repacking), storage and distribution (refrigeration, logistics, display appliances) and its services. Shown are International F&B ManuTech project director Mayose Gozon-Bautista, PSVare president engineer David Farala, Time Foundation president engineer Cesar, PSVare past president engineer Rosendo Perez Jr and PSVare external vice president engineer Eric Panzo. For more information, call 687-0654 or 687-3292 or log on to www.foodandbeverage-manutech.com.

'Love and Laughter'

"LOVE AND LAUGHTER", a musical comedy, will highlight the 34th Community Day Celebration of Buklod ng Pag-Ibig Community on June 24 at 7 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. The two-hour musical comedy will feature Mitch Valdez and the singing priests Fr. Erick Santos and Fr. Bobby Titco, the K-5 and the BNP Music Ministry. Proceeds of the show will go to the repairs of the Buklod ng Pag-Ibig Healing Center which now needs immediate repair because of the water leaks from the roof, which if unattended, will have adverse effects to the facilities within the Healing Center. Buklod ng Pag-Ibig Community founded by the late Fr. Pascual H. Adorable SJ goes on its 34th year. Major sponsors for the event are the Fr. Pascual H. Adorable Foundation, Imelda Cojuangco, Midland Pacific Development Corp, MDR Securities, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Meralco and Edgar and Doris San Luis. For tickets, call 724-7534 and 724-7546 or go to the Healing Center at 97 Balete Drive Extension, New Manila, Quezon City.

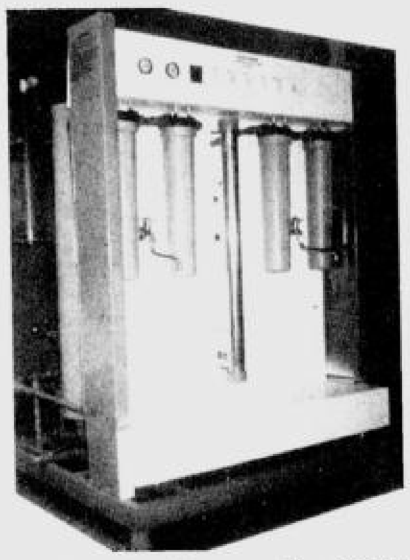
PRA CELEBRATES PEARL ANNIVERSARY, THANKSGIVING

The Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) recently celebrated its 30th anniversary as the 'Pulse and Voice of the Retailing Industry' with a Thanksgiving celebration. Highlighting the affair was the recognition given to the government and private agencies in their active involvement in the operation against smuggling and illegal 'tiangges' to create a level playing field for all retailers. The PRA honored colleagues in the private business community who joined hands with PRA in the campaign. Shown are (from left) PRA president Mars C. Chua, PRA VP Bing Limjoco, Employees Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) chair Miguel Varela, Philippine Export Confederation (Philexport) president Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Ambassador Donald Dee and PRA chair emeritus Samie Lim. Not in photo is Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCCI) president Francis Chua.

FPP Mindanao 2006 opens

FPP MINDANAO 2006 (Food Processing and Packaging Technology Expo 2006) is ongoing until June 24 at the Bangko Sentral Plenary Hall, Davao City. Visitors engaged in the food processing, restaurant, hotel, catering, cold storage, import and export food business as well as other food and beverage related industries are invited to attend Mindanao's biggest food supplier's expo. The event also features a back-to-back FPP Mindanao Summit which is a comprehensive series of technical sessions on the latest international trends and updates in food processing and packaging. The seminars are open to the public and free of charge. Remaining schedules and details can be accessed at www.fpp-mindanao.com, or call 929-7993 or 63, 435-4790, 920-8136, or 4269603. FPP Mindanao 2006 is organized by Premier Events Plus Group (PEPGroup).

Low cost, high profit water station



AT A PRODUCTION cost of merely 30 centavos per gallon, the Electromex UHP-500 compact water station easily delivers 3,000 gallons of high-purity, germ-free water daily. The industrial grade ozone generator and ultraviolet germicidal system kills 100 percent of all bacteria, viruses, and eliminates cancer causing lead, mercury, manganese, and other pathogens.

The Electromex UHP-500 uses only a small space of 4 feet x 3 feet x 6 feet and comes complete with stainless tanks, Italian-made pumps, ultraviolet filters, carbon, and the heavy-duty ozonator. The stand-alone portable water station is plug-and-play and easy to operate.

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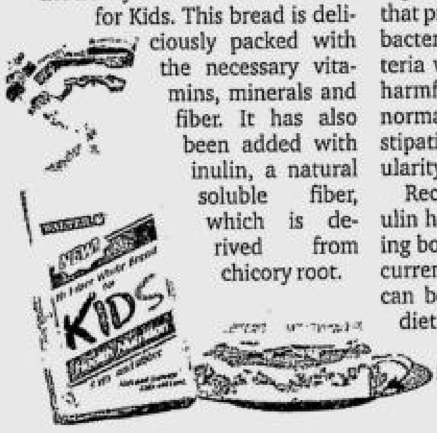
Walter Bread for Kids launched



IMAGINE GETTING ALMOST ALL the nutrients your kids need in one slice of bread. Now, it is possible with the newly launched Walter Bread for Kids. This bread is deliciously packed with the necessary vitamins, minerals and fiber. It has also been added with inulin, a natural soluble fiber, which is derived from chicory root.

Inulin is becoming a popular ingredient in many types of food because of its health benefits, notably in the digestive tract. Inulin is a prebiotic that promotes the growth of the "good bacteria" lactobaciluus and bifidobacteria while decreasing the growth of harmful bacteria. This helps maintain normal bowel function, decrease constipation and promotes digestive regularity.

Recent research has shown that inulin has a beneficial effect in improving bone density and reducing the occurrence of osteoporosis because it can boost calcium absorption in the diet.

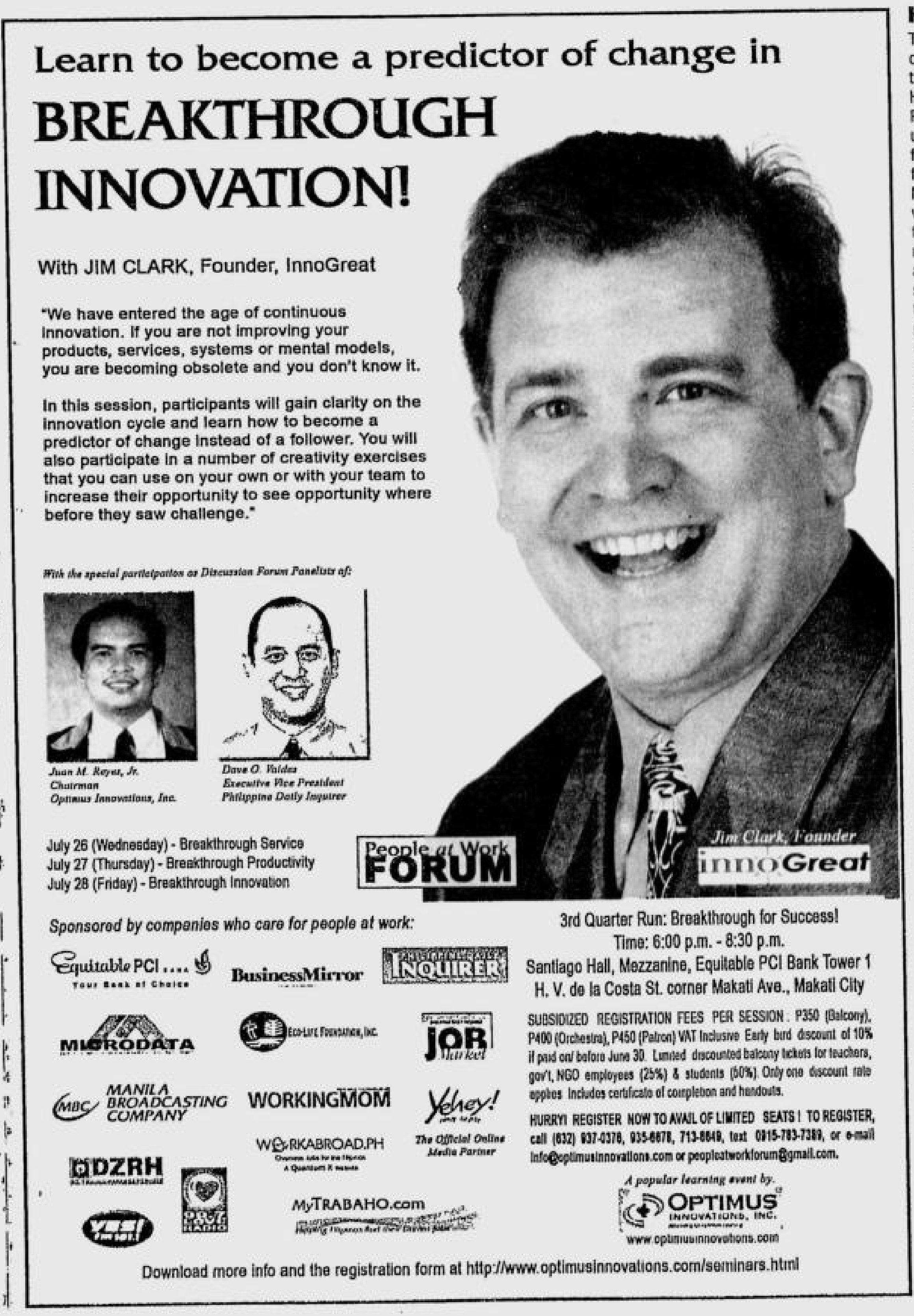
Aside from inulin, Walter Bread for Kids also contains whole wheat which guarantees that your children will get the recommended amount of fiber intake. Fiber has been known to lessen the risk of heart disease, diabetes and prevent constipation.

All of these health benefits are packed in each delicious and smooth slice of bread which kids will surely love. And because it is made by Walter, you are guaranteed with soft, moist and tasty bread that will surely be a delight to eat.

Walter Bread for Kids is manufactured by Creative Bakers, makers of Walter Bread Sugar Free Wheat Pandesal, Sugar Free Wheat Bread and Double Fiber Wheat Bread. All products are available in all leading supermarkets nationwide.

HK SUN PLAZA OPENS SOON

The forthcoming launch of what can be considered the country's 'largest Home Depot'-HK Sun Plaza-would feature an unparalleled 6.4-hectare floor area that extends from Roxas Boulevard to Macapagal Avenue. This would enable HKSP to offer more than 1,000 parking spaces for customers and tenants, and 24-hour security. The lifestyle center's interior will be composed of a variety of product and service providers. Sides facing Roxas Boulevard and Macapagal Avenue will be lined up with fast-food establishments and fine dining restaurants, while a garden landscape will surround the plaza, creating a serene ambiance for diners, especially during the final daylight hours of Manila's famed Sunset Bay. HKSP has three hectares allotted for home depot, while the remaining 2.5 hectares is available for interested tenants. Free information is available at www.hksunplaza.com.



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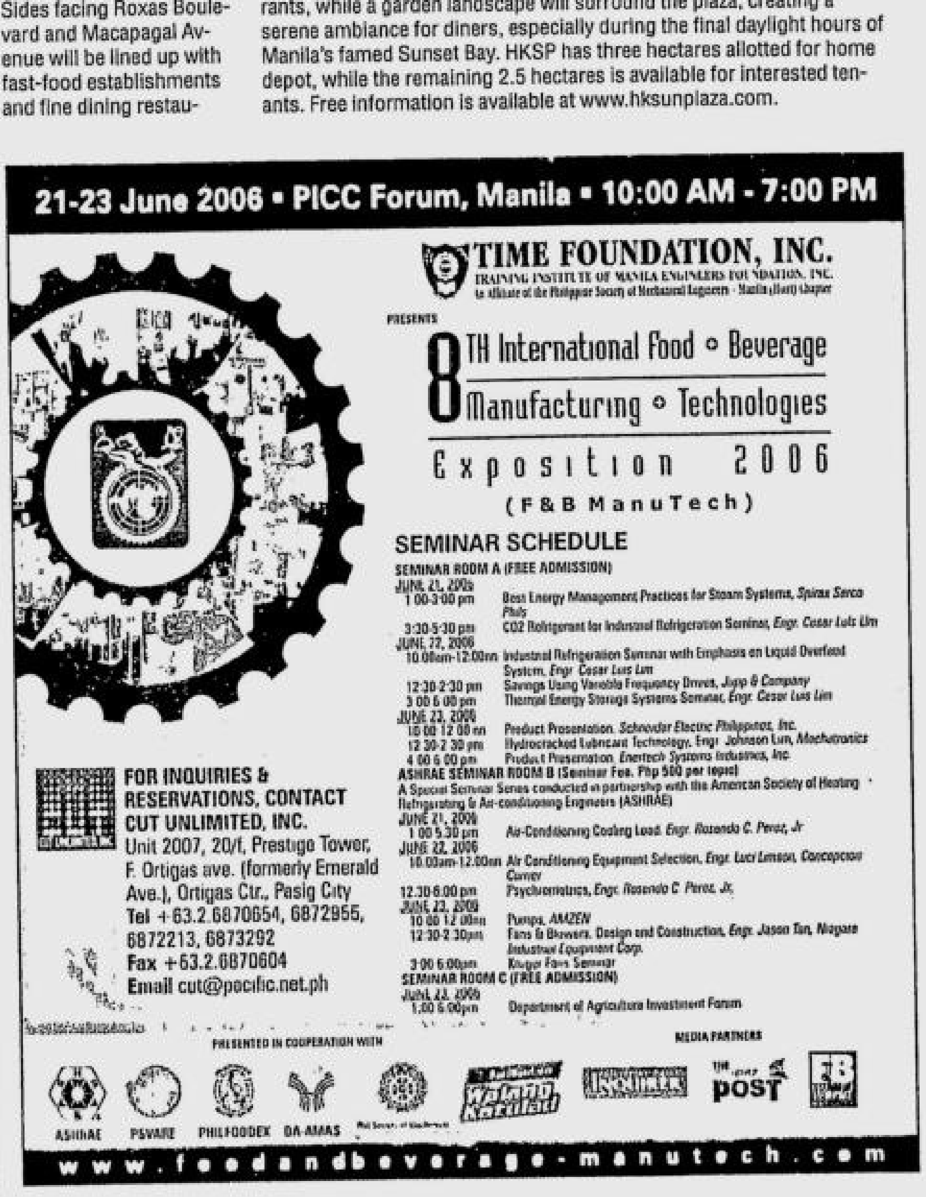

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SEMINAR SCHEDULE

SEMINAR ROOM A (FREE ADMISSION)

JUNE 21, 2006	
1:00-3:00 pm	Best Energy Management Practices for Steam Systems, *Spirax Sarco Phils*
3:30-5:30 pm	CO2 Refrigerant for Industrial Refrigeration Seminar, *Engr. Cesar Luis Lim*
JUNE 22, 2006	
10:00am-12:00nn	Industrial Refrigeration Seminar with Emphasis on Liquid Overfeed System, *Engr. Cesar Luis Lim*
12:30-2:30 pm	Savings Using Variable Frequency Drives, *Jupp & Company*
3:00-6:00 pm	Thermal Energy Storage Systems Seminar, *Engr. Cesar Luis Lim*
JUNE 23, 2006	
10:00-12:00 nn	Product Presentation, *Schneider Electric Philippines, Inc.*
12:30-2:30 pm	Hydrocracked Lubricant Technology, Engr. Johnson Lim, *Mechatronics*
4:00-6:00 pm	Product Presentation, *Enertech Systems Industries, Inc.*

ASHRAE SEMINAR ROOM B (Seminar Fee. Php 500 per topic)
A Special Seminar Series conducted in partnership with the American Society of Heating Refrigerating & Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

JUNE 21, 2006	
1:00-5:30 pm	Air-Conditioning Cooling Load, *Engr. Rosendo C. Perez, Jr*
JUNE 22, 2006	
10:00am-12:00nn	Air Conditioning Equipment Selection, *Engr. Luci Limson, Concepcion Carrier*
12:30-6:00 pm	Psychrometrics, *Engr. Rosendo C. Perez, Jr.*
JUNE 23, 2006	
10:00-12:00nn	Pumps, *AMZEN*
12:30-2:30pm	Fans & Blowers, Design and Construction, *Engr. Jason Tan, Niagara Industrial Equipment Corp.*
3:00-6:00pm	Kruger Fans Seminar

SEMINAR ROOM C (FREE ADMISSION)

JUNE 23, 2006	
1:00-6:00pm	Department of Agriculture Investment Forum

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P1.4-B Korea investment held up in Mimosa mess

NG

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CLARK AUTHORITIES ARE PUSHING through with negotiations with South Korean investors and their government on the privatization of the Mimosa Leisure Estate amid allegations of a rigged bidding and a threat of investigation before the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Antonio R. Ng, president and chief executive of Clark Development Corp., said that the Mimosa privatization could yet become another case that would discourage foreign investors from doing business in the country in general, and in Clark in particular.

Ng said the the government stood to gain some P650 million up front, plus $1.2 million in yearly rental, when the CDC declared NTC-Jin Hung Joint Venture Corp. to be the winner of a bidding held last May 15.

Also, the winning bidder has committed to pour in additional investments of up to P1.42 billion to finish or improve the property's villas, casinos, golf course and country club, water theme park, promenade and hotel.

CDC took over the management of Mimosa in 1999 after operator Mondragon Leisure and Resort Corp. failed to pay lease rentals amounting to P464 million.

Ng maintained that the bidding was aboveboard, and that existing laws and rules were applied in the entire bidding process.

He dismissed allegations that the process lacked transparency, saying that the CDC had made everything public through notices, advertisements, Internet postings, bidding updates. The CDC also made a data room available for eligible bidders.

"There is also no arbitrary disqualification

P1.4-B KOREA/ B7

Taxes under question already paid, says RCBC

RCBC YESTERDAY SAID IT HAD already paid the taxes involved in a recent Supreme Court case where the bank was held liable for P100 million in taxes.

RCBC corporate vice chairman Cesar E.A. Virata in a statement said the bank made the tax payments even before the high court decided on the case.

However, an appeal was made to have the case reopened to examine the basis for the tax assessment.

"The Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Court of Tax Appeals based on procedural consideration," Virata said.

This is in response to a Supreme Court decision upholding the Court of Tax Appeals' ruling on RCBC's alleged tax liabilities following the failure of its counsel to file an appeal on time.

The taxes, which were paid between 2004 and 2005, involved 10 percent foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) gross onshore income tax and documentary stamp taxes (DST) on Special Savings Accounts (SSAs).

The bank said the taxes were paid under protest because these were the subject of a dispute between the banking industry and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Other banking sources said the dispute revolved around the validity of taxes on FCDUs and SSAs, which all banks are questioning because, under the National Revenue Code, banks are exempt from these taxes.

The BIR apparently insists otherwise, based on its own regulations.

Shares . . .

From page B1

investors to look for bargains, dealers said.

They said Wall Street's lead helped the region as a whole, with investors relieved to see gains after the roller-coaster ride of the past weeks.

The composite index rose 39.62 points to 2,097.39, just off the intra-day high of 2,098.83. It hit a low of 2,057.77 points. The broader all-shares index advanced 19.86 points to 1,331.57.

Gainers beat losers 65 to 20, with 31 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 2.2 billion shares worth P1.04 billion ($19.53 million). *AFP*

BIR expects . . .

From page B1

month. But it could likely turn in as much as P46.343 billion, according to Buñag.

The BIR chief estimated that the revenue agency could collect P35.761 billion in June from voluntary remittance of taxpayers, and P2.147 billion in additional revenue from the recently passed VAT Reform Law.

He added that the BIR would likely generate P809 million in incremental taxes from the implementation of enforcement programs, another P172 million from going after delinquent accounts, and some P7.454 billion from special revenue-raising initiatives.

Enforcement programs include the "tax mapping," under which BIR representatives conduct surprise visits to business establishments to check on their tax compliance.

The P46.343-billion expected tax collection in June, if achieved, would reflect a 20-percent growth from the P38.58 billion collected in the same month of the last year.

However, Buñag's expected overperformance in June would still not be enough to compensate for the BIR's shortfall recorded in the January-to-May period.

Globe slams . . .

From page B1

Piltel network.

Globe complains that the promo constitutes "predatory pricing" and unduly disadvantages other wireless networks that do not have access to the same accommodations from the Smart and Piltel network.

Globe pointed out that Smart and Piltel are separate companies with separate franchises from regulators and, as such, should not give each other undue pricing advantages for the use of each other's services—pricing schemes which the twin units would not make available to competitors.

Smart yesterday disputed Globe's claims, saying it could not be accused of predatory pricing because it would not offer promos below cost.

"The charge of predatory pricing is not only unmeritorious but is outright absurd in the light of the facts that are fully disclosed to the Honorable Commisson and even the public in general," Smart's lawyer Ivy L. Plaza-Cortez said in her reply to the NTC.

She pointed out that because Smart and Piltel use the same cellular phone network, it is impossible for both firms to be "interconnected" or to levy access charges from each other that would put it on level pricing terms with its competitors.

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Gov't to address mismatch between skills, industry needs

Provision of scholarships for technical training

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE GOVERNMENT is formulating measures to address the mismatch between skills and industry requirements, according to Jobs Creation Secretary Arthur Yap.

Speaking during the Cebu Business Month 2006 plenary session this week, Yap said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered concerned agencies to come up with steps to close the gap between available skills and industry needs during the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

These measures included a scheme to enable students to earn credits from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), through the state universities and colleges, for any training and work they get, he said.

Yap said President Arroyo also ordered the allocation of P2 billion for the construction of schoolhouses and P500 million each for the Tesda, the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education scholarship programs.

The P1.5 billion-fund will provide scholarships for technical training in the case of Tesda, college scholarships for CHEd for those taking up courses for emerging sectors such as nursing and medical degrees and school scholarships for DepEd, he said.

Yap explained that nursing and medical degree courses were included in CHEd's scholarship program because of the increasing shortage in nurses and doctors.

In the case of cyber services industry, Yap said the government was coming up with a quick fix to the shortage of manpower supply.

"We have to continue bridging the gap between those people looking for jobs and the job openings," Yap said, noting that there were 550,000 job openings this year.

In Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Yap said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas had noted that the available skills in the manpower pool did not match the requirement of businesses, especially those in the emerging sectors.

GCash brought to Asia

BRIDGE MOBILE AND GLOBE Telecom's G-Xchange Inc. have teamed up to develop a regional mobile payment service for members of the Bridge Mobile Alliance—CSL of Hong Kong, Maxis of Malaysia and Taiwan Mobile.

The regional mobile payment service will be based on Globe's GCash solution. It will enable overseas Filipino workers in Bridge Mobile Alliance members' territories to open GCash wallets outside the Philippines for fund transfer to other GCash users, merchants and institutions in the Philippines—directly from the local SIMs of participating member operators. This means greater flexibility and convenience to OFWs in terms of fund transfer and management. At present, GCash wallet accounts can only be set up and accessed with Globe-roaming SIMs.

Seow Yoke Kong, vice president for service and technology development of Bridge Mobile, said there were about 1.5 million OFWs in the countries covered by the alliance, such as Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan.

G-Xchange Inc. (GXI), a Globe Telecom subsidiary in-charge of its m-commerce initiatives, was set up to develop, design, administer and operate software applications and systems for m-commerce. The company is set to showcase GCash in this week's CommunicAsia.

GXI president Rizza Maniego-Eala sees an opportunity for the company to expand its network of potential partners to tap into additional foreign markets.

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Filipino-Russian airline to expand in Mindanao

EW AIR LINKS IN MINDANAO

cretary Jesus Dureza (right), Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, shows to Ibragim Sharifkulov ft), Mosphil Aero Incorporated President, the existing air links between Mindanao and the Brunei russalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) during a recent eting in Manila. Jointly set up by Russian investors, Mosphil Aero intends to establish passenger air utes to Zamboanga, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi and Sandakan, Malaysia along with cargo air routes in Davao City d the Republic of Palau.

Move seen boosting development of the island as tourism, trade increase by 10-20% in 5 years

By Jeoffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A FILIPINO-RUSSIAN airline company plans to expand its operations in Mindanao, a move seen boosting the development of the island, according to the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

Jesus Dureza, national peace adviser, said the move of Mosphil Aero Inc. was vital to the acceleration of economic activities and the promotion of Mindanao as a prime tourist destination.

"Mindanao is a strategic place for airline investments due to the increasing number of domestic and foreign tourists and investors in the existing Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area economic cooperation," Dureza said.

Indonesia's Merpati Nusantara Airlines currently serves the General Santos-Manado route while South Phoenix flies from Zamboanga City to Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan in Malaysia.

Ibragim Sharifkulov, president of Mosphil Aero Inc., said on Wednesday that his company was putting up international and domestic flights to primarily service passenger and cargo traffic in the island-region.

"Our expansion in Mindanao is part of the company's mission to provide air travel and cargo services to potential tourist destinations in the Philippines needing reliable means of transportation," Sharifkulov said.

Possible destinations include Zamboanga, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi and Davao, he said.

Dureza added that the government and business sector were working closely to promote flights in line with the BIMP-Eaga roadmap to increase trade, investment and tourism in the sub-regional cooperation over the next three years.

Specifically, the BIMP-Eaga roadmap is poised to increase trade and investments among BIMP-Eaga focus areas by 10 percent and increase tourism movement in the growth polygon by 20 percent by 2010.

Dureza said this would mean that travel between the four-country growth areas would increase correspondingly.

The BIMP-Eaga, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, was created in March 1994 to increase trade, tourism and investments among member countries.

Mindanao and Palawan are the key focus areas for the Philippines.

Sugar producers protest 3% mport tariff levied on Kraft

Christine A. Gaylican

CAL SUGAR MILLERS AND PRODUCERS are otesting the continued importation of pre-mixed ces by Kraft Foods Phils. Inc. at a 3-percent comn preferential tariff rate.

They said that it has resulted in revenue losses to government of as much as P500 million a year.

Members of the Philippine Sugar Millers Associon (PSMA) and producers group have called the ention of the Bureau of Customs to its failure to plement a ruling it issued in May 2005.

The ruling provided that Kraft Foods should pay 8-percent tariff as its imported pre-mixed juices 65-percent sugar.

More than the industry, it is the national govnment that is placed at a gross disadvantage. ere revenue should be flowing in terms of tariff, being curtailed," said PSMA executive director e Maria Zabaleta in an interview.

According to Zabaleta, the PSMA had earlier t a sample of Kraft's powdered juice drink with trademark "Tang" to the US Bureau of Customs analysis following reports of a tariff preferential atment given to company.

Based on the findings, and this was confirmed us by the US BOC, Kraft's Tang with its more n 90-percent sugar content is classified as sugar per se," he said.

A separate analysis conducted by the Sugar Regulatory Administration's Agro Industrial Laboratory (Airlab) showed that Kraft's pineapple flavored juice under the "Tang" and "Kool Aid Juicers" brands contained 90.12 percent sucrose, while its orange flavored powdered juice was 91.67 percent sucrose.

PSMA argued that allowing Kraft Foods to import sugar for its premixed juices at 3 percent tariff instead of the legitimate 38 percent was a "glaring oversight" on the part of the BOC.

According to Executive Order 295 signed in March 2005, a 38-percent tariff should be imposed on products with a sugar content exceeding 65 percent in dry weight.

PSMA noted that local sugar prices was now at par with the world sugar price "so importers have no reason to buy sugar elsewhere but domestically."

"At this time when local sugar prices are almost parallel to that of the world market, Kraft and other juice manufacturers, for that matter, should be sourcing their requirements locally," the association said.

Kraft had been bringing in Tang powdered juice drinks from Thailand where sugar is cheaper.

1.4-B Korea investment . . .

m page B5

ce we conducted the bidding following the ms of reference (TOR)," Ng said.

There were originally 10 parties that expressed erest and obtained copies of the TOR, but only applied for eligibility.

Ng said one group submitted its papers late. The er five were evaluated for eligibility. Only four re qualified after one group failed to establish its ancial capability.

Of the remaining four, two submitted their of-. One group withdrew while another was disalified because the partners broke up before the lding.

"Of the two—NTM-Jin Hung and the United ites' Avenue Asia—the latter submitted its bid cuments late and subsequently withdrew," Ng d.

"The [bidding] committee returned Avenue a's bid proposal without looking at it. Based on perience, disqualified bidders no longer ask for onsideration when their bids are inferior to the bids that have already been opened."

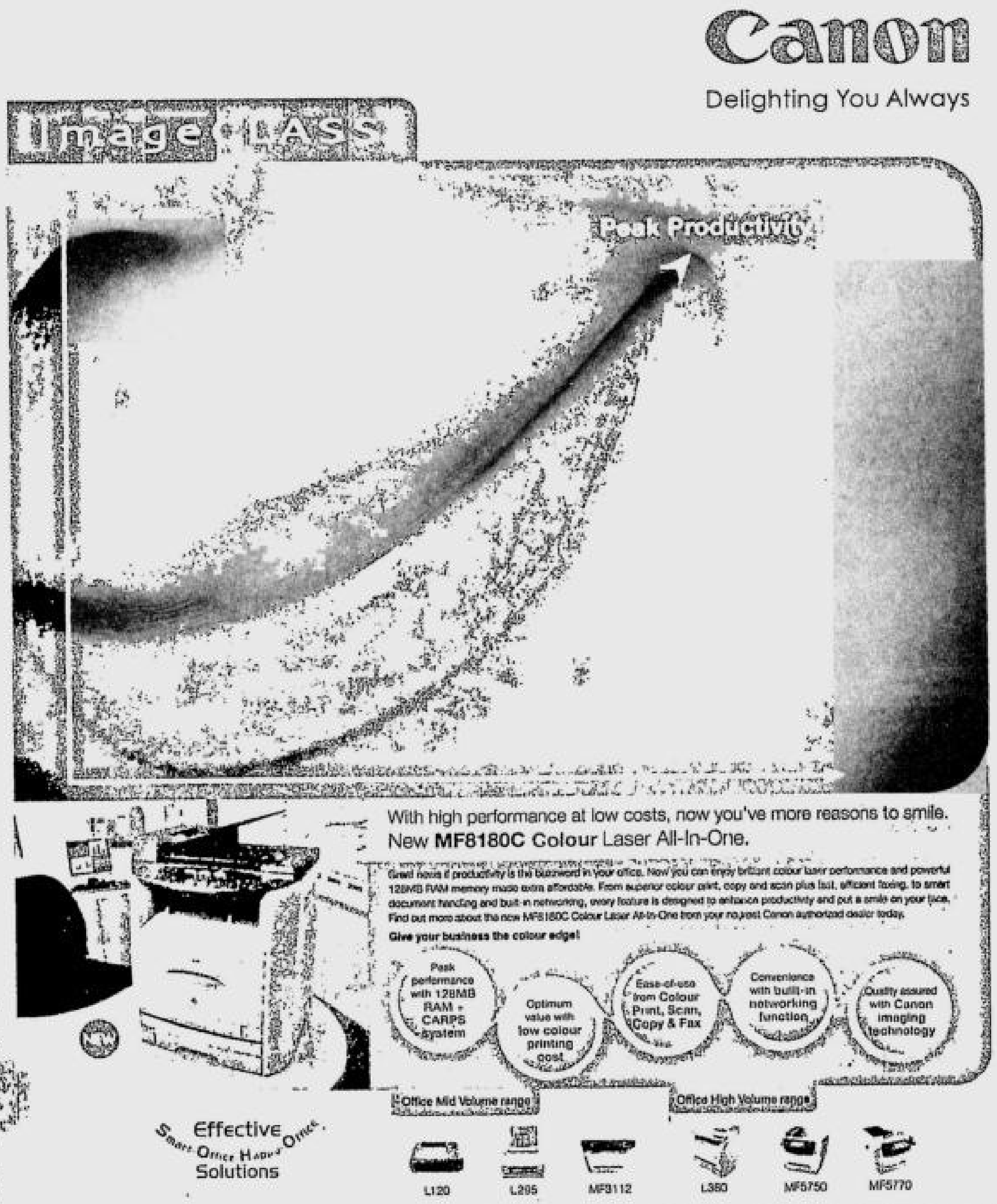
Ng said the bidding could not have been a failure since there were two parties that submitted their respective offers, even though one was opened and another was received shortly after the deadline.

"We have submitted the lease agreement to the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel and asked for guidelines on how to go about the privatization," Ng said. "We are also in talks with NTM-Jin Hung on how they can proceed under Korean laws."

The official added that if the Koreans failed to make good on their investment commitments, the bidding would then become a failure.

"The next solution would be a third bidding which would be negotiated," Ng said. "This means that it would not be as good as [the offer] we have now."

The first bidding for the Mimosa property took place sometime in 2003, but it was declared a failure after investors withdrew from making offers.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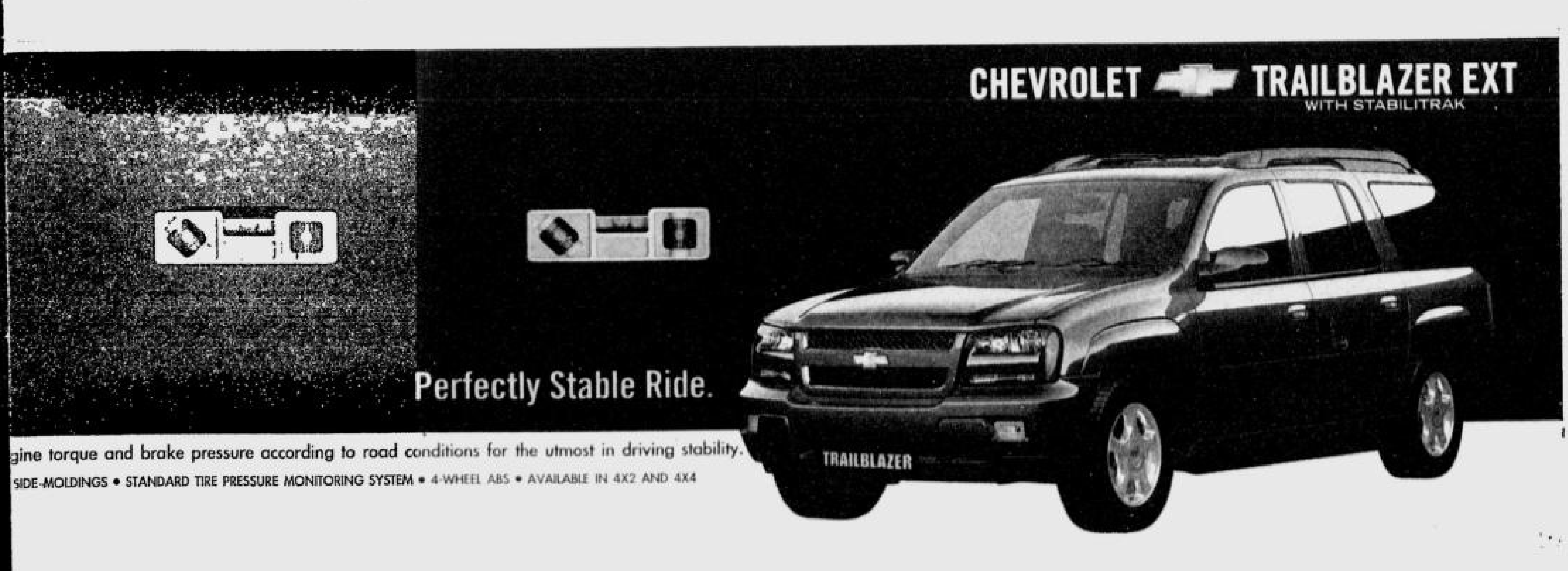

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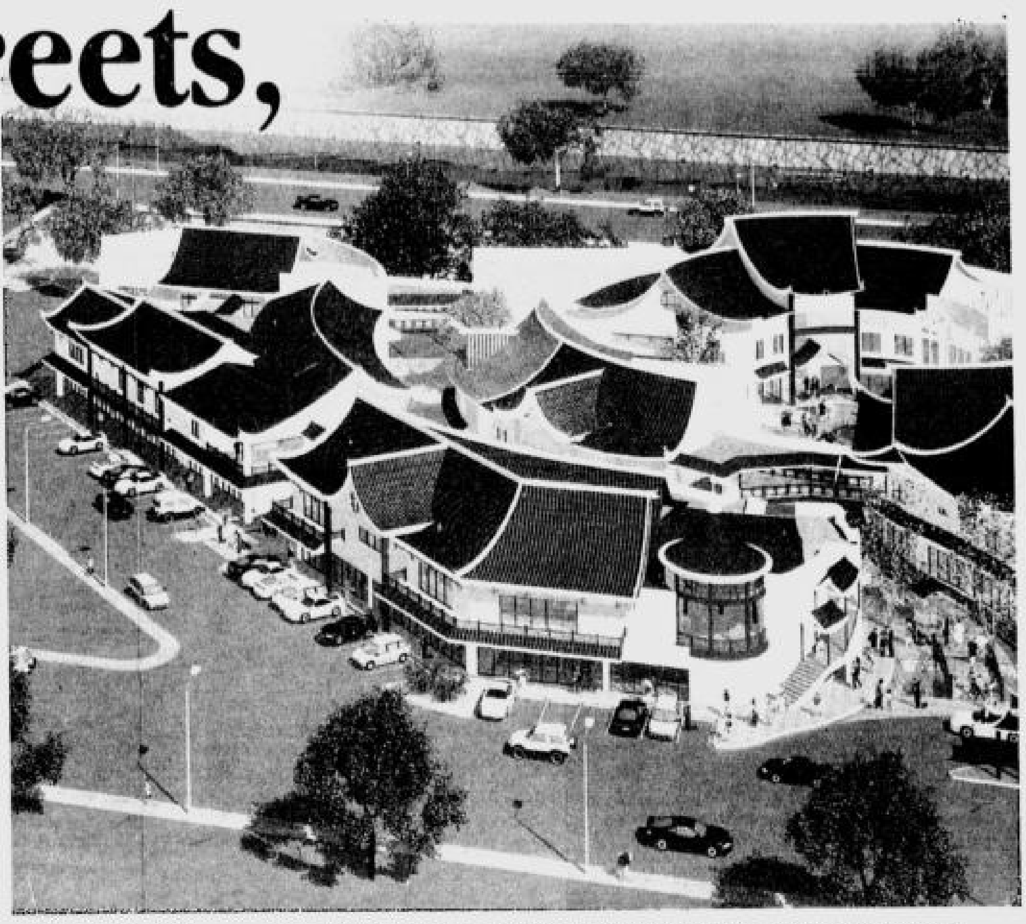
BUSINESS Friday

No more narrow streets, crowded parking in this Chinatown

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

DE JESUS, Wenceslao and Ong



AN ARCHITECT'S perspective of the first phase of the Neo Chinatown along Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, in Parañaque City

IN THE '80S, LAND IN the Ayala area in Makati City cost some P250,000 per square meter. Even today this is a steep price.

But at that time, land in the Binondo area, where Chinatown is located, cost even higher—at P300,000 to P330,000 per square meter.

Up until the early '90s, major banks, and many Chinese-owned businesses, had their head offices at the Chinatown area as many big Chinese businessmen still considered Binondo the seat of commerce in Manila. The way it was over 100 years ago.

Come the second generation, the children of these businessmen. Many were educated abroad or in Western ways. Binondo, to these young upward mobile Filipino-Chinese. has become synonymous to narrow streets, no parking, and dirty surroundings that they have to go through to check the businesses their fathers set up there, eat in their favorite Chinese restaurants in the *estero* area, buy gold jewelry for their friends and relatives, or just to hang out with other Chinese-Filipinos.

And they realized Binondo has become limited to the Chinese. Unlike in other countries, where a Chinatown is a place where tourists go to regularly.

Two young men began toying with the idea of creating a new Chinatown outside of Binondo.

They started selling the idea to other investors who bought into it. Of course, needless to say, the investors are all Chinese-Filipinos.

Mark Steven Ong is an architect. And even before he had investors, he already had a drawing of how he wants a Chinatown outside Binondo to look like. He showed this to close friend, Edwin Michael "Dindo" C. Wenceslao, whose family was a part owner or the 204-hectare Aseana Industrial Park in the reclaimed area along Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Parañaque (where the newly opened Mall of Asia is located).

A total of 16 investors were pooled to form the Bay Pacific Neo Chinatown Inc. including Guillermo "Gemo" Chutick. Construction started last September.

The project will have three phases. What has been started is the first phase—a commercial complex that will combine business and trade with social and leisure activities. Project cost for the first phase is about P250 million.

The group's marketing man, Robert T. de Jesus, says they are trying to convince some of the restaurants in Binondo, especially those in Ongpin Street to open branches in the new Chinatown, which is set to open at the last quarter of the year.

He says they are also trying to convince establishments from mainland China to open in the Neo Chinatown.

Dindo says they think the Neo Chinatown will complement the newly opened Mall of Asia.

Mark says it will try to replicate the Chinatowns in other countries—it will also have a night market, have shops for gold jewelry, good Chinese restaurants, and Chinese medicine shops.

As the Neo Chinatown is set to open, newspapers recently announced that Megaworld, led by Andrew Tan, won the bidding for the P5 billion to P7 billion project that will take five years to complete.

Tablets that purify water relaunched

A FIRM RECENTLY RE-INTRODUCED tablets that can purify water for drinking.

Alog & Co. Inc. launched Aquatabs, self-dissolving tablets that make water safe to drink. Its active ingredient is sodium dichloroisocyanurate (NaDCC). The tablets are geared to help prevent water-borne diseases like cholera, typhoid and dysentery. Alog also sells these in granular form that can be used for the treatment of larger volumes of water and dosing of piped water. The tablets are not used for water affected by chemical pollution.

Dionisio Alog, president and CEO of the company that has successfully brought to the Philippines new global products and technologies, gave an inspiring talk that drew from leadership expert John Maxwell's teaching about defining one's purpose. According to Alog, the highly motivated Alog team has time and again responded positively to market competition, and with the relaunch of Aquatabs, the company reiterated its commitment to help add value to the lives of people and show gratitude to consumers by improving its products and services.

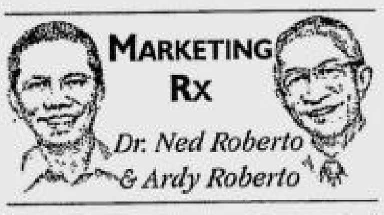
Health Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto pointed out that advancements in science have led people to assume that the welfare and health of people are now more easily assured. But due to environmental circumstances and manmade disasters, health problems continue to be difficult to control. Aquatabs, she noted, have played a role in helping people through simple but immediate and far-reaching ways. The health undersecretary concluded by emphasizing the necessity of moving beyond personal care toward a community-based approach to health that takes care of the environment as well.

Michael Gately, international marketing manager of Medentech Ltd. Inc. Ireland, presented information about how Aquatabs have helped millions of people worldwide. Since mid-'80s, Aquatabs have been used for the treatment of drinking water in emergency settings. The product is safe for the routine treatment of drinking water because it uses NaDCC that conforms to internationally recognized specifications.

Aquatabs allow "scalable approaches for water treatment in household water treatment programs" because the tablets are practical, pose no transportation hazards, can be administered by non-technical persons, and do not take up a great deal of storage space.

For 25 years, Alog & Co. Inc. has been marketing and distributing products for the human health, structural properties, and the environment against microorganisms and pests. For more info about Aquatabs, call 882-4513 to 14 and 882-1767.

What have we learned about 'Positioning?'



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

IN 2001, MCGRAW-HILL PUBLISHED the 20th anniversary edition of the book, "Positioning: The Battle for Your Mind," by Al Ries and his partner, Jack Trout. But it was way back in 1972 when Al Ries and Jack Trout coined and wrote about positioning in a three-part series of articles in Advertising Age. After eight years, the series was transformed into book form that became a marketing classic. Even Al Ries' severest critics (and there are many of them) admit that Al Ries is "without doubt one of the most prominent gurus of strategic thinking." The same critics had recognized (rather reluctantly) that his positioning concept "to this very day shapes the way marketing and branding are done all over the world ... (and that) only few other concepts come close in importance."

So over these past 30 years what have we learned about positioning? For those of you who are not at the INQUIRER- sponsored Al Ries' brand marketing conference which is being held today at the Philippine Plaza Hotel, here's a summary:

Here's lesson No. 1:

Positioning is a marketing principle that has stood the test of time. There have been as many definitions as there are speakers and writers but the original Ries and Trout concept, has endured. If you listen and read carefully, you will find that there are two common denominators across the many definitions. These two capture the essential genetics of positioning.

We start with Al Ries and Jack Trout's concept and definition. They say:

"Positioning is what you do to the mind of the prospect. That is, you position the product in the mind of the prospect."

"What matters are the perceptions that exist in the mind. The essence of the positioning thinking is to accept the perceptions as reality and then restructure those perceptions to create the position you desire."

The measure of competition in the mind of the consumer.

In terms of strategic marketing insight, Ries and Trout's contribution comes from their focus on the consumer's mind. That's the place where positioning happens.

It was out of this consumer behavior "reality" that we now think of competition as taking place first in the consumer's mind before getting translated as competition in the physical marketplace. We measure competition in the marketplace with the familiar share of market metric. The Ries' concept of competition in the consumer's mind gave rise to the share of mind metric.

Subsequent consumer behavior studies established that the consumers' buying behavior in the marketplace (i.e., the share of market) is preceded by their perception response in their mind (i.e., the share of mind). This insight led to today's marketing "best practice" guide saying:

Because your brand's share of mind changes before the change in its share of market, you can use share of mind as a predictor of share of market. Over time, your brand's share of market will tend to move toward its share of mind. So in your marketing research (Usage Attitude Image—UAI—study), if you see that your brand's share of market is higher than its share of mind, then expect that if you continue what you're doing, your brand's share of market will eventually go down to the lower level of its share of mind. But if your market research shows that your brand's share of market is lower than its share of mind, then expect that unless your competitors do something, your brand's share of market will eventually go up to the higher level of its share of mind.

Today, this Ries and Trout-inspired best practice rule has proven its worth as a practical common sense forecasting tool in marketing planning and as a marketer's early warning signal.

After Positioning became a sustained bestseller and "bible" of marketing strategy, many elaboration of his positioning concept and definition found their way into the marketing literature as well as practice. Later, the acknowledged ultimate synthesizer of marketing concepts, Philip Kotler (the senior MRx-er's professor at Northwestern and co-author), summarized these definitions in his restatement of positioning as battling for "a desirable and distinctive place relative to competing products in the minds of target consumers."

Two prerequisites for your positioning to work: desirable and distinctive

So there's your two common denominators of positioning; its two necessary conditions. First, "desirable," that is, you don't position in something that's not desirable or important to your consumers. So find out first what's your consumers' priority product values or needs. Second, "distinctive," that is, in order to motivate consumers to favor your brand, you must make sure that it satisfies the consumers' priority product values in a distinctive way or better than competition. This second requirement has come to be known as the product's distinctiveness or differentiator. In the '50s and early '60s, the descriptor for this requirement was "USP" or "unique selling proposition."

Over the years that marketers used positioning as the backbone of their brand's marketing strategy, they learned that they have to have these two necessary conditions together. Otherwise, the positioning won't work and sales won't come.

So the first strategic positioning error is to pay attention to just the first condition. That's effectively saying: "I'll find out what's most important to my brand's consumers and position it there." Of course, this will motivate consumers if your brand is the only one positioned in that product value. But even if it is, this won't last long. As soon as the competitors' brands also deliver on that product value, even if that product value remains a high consumer priority, it is then reduced into a "minimum requirement" consumer need. As a minimum requirement, satisfying that need will no longer motivate consumers in your brand's favor or in any brand's favor for that matter. Maslow's principle of motivation takes over: "A satisfied need no matter how important will no longer motivate."

Expectedly, the second strategic positioning error is to focus only on the second condition. In effect, that's saying: "I'll find out what's not in the available brands and therefore what's a differentiator, and position my brand there." Of course, this will be a motivator, if the distinctiveness is also of priority value to consumers. If it's not, then it's a flawed positioning base.

This is like the case of the instant coffee marketer who wanted to position a "breakthrough" instant coffee. The nature of the breakthrough is in the brand's being an instant powdered coffee (and therefore cheap) but able to capture the taste of ground coffee as the expensive Maxwell brand does. The coffee brand marketer here thought that positioning the brand as "the official coffee of the PBA" will grab a big proportion of market share from the dominant Nescafe brand leader. In the product test, consumers were asked what occasions they love and what occasions they hate drinking coffee. The "love" occasions were as expected: during coffee break (of course), during breakfast, and so on. It was the most mentioned hate-occasion that was the eye-opener: "I hate taking coffee after sports." So "PBA's official coffee" positioning was indeed a distinctiveness but it was something that was not only unimportant to the target consumers but worse: they hated coffee after sports. That included watching the PBA.

I've stated this partnership of positioning's two necessary conditions in this positioning proposition:

For your product's positioning to work, remember this: what's important must be distinctive, and what's distinctive must be important for your target consumers.

Now to our second lesson.

Here's lesson No. 2: Positioning is as much a marketer behavior as it is a consumer behavior.

In the final analysis, it is the consumer's positioning of your brand that matters. You must converge with how your consumer positions your brand.

For those who belong to the senior MRx-ers generation, you referred to this proposition as "the marketing concept." The strategy direction of the marketing concept is to think always from the consumer's standpoint. Marketing planning and deciding must begin from where the consumers are and not from where you are as marketer.

Then, in the '80s, this mindset was referred to as being "market driven." When marketers in growing numbers swore allegiance to Al Ries' positioning concept, positioning first became in most cases a marketer behavior. That was almost the opposite of the market-driven mindset.

We've had more than a few clients who said to the senior MRx-er that his consumer research on their brands was a letdown: "Dr. Ned, your research was a disappointment. There was no marketing insight at all." When asked to explain, here's a typical client answer: "Your research had no insight on consumers who believed and were motivated by our brand's chosen positioning. In fact, it found the opposite; that consumers didn't like the brand's positioning."

Thank God these were the exceptional few. Most knew their marketing and acknowledged that consumers can position your brand different from your positioning of it as a marketer. A simplistic but true example was the case of a pharma company that positioned its new cephalosforin/antibiotic brand as a distinctively better antibiotic for upper respiratory infection. When doctors were asked to try the brand on their patients, most said in the post-trial interview that they found the brand "very good for UTI (urinary tract infection)." So what are you to do? Force the consumer to accept your positioning that it is for upper respiratory infections?

When this difference in positioning between customer and marketer happens, we now know that the correct move is to reposition by converging with the consumers' positioning. That's just being market driven. That's a welcome return to the marketing concept.

So there you are. That's where we are today on positioning and there's your more significant lessons learned over the past 30 years. McGraw-Hill in cooperation with Salt and Light Venture has published a local reprint of the Al Ries and Jack Trout marketing classic, "Positioning: The Battle For Your Mind." The book is now available at National Bookstore.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

THE LIGHT-HEARTED CEO

In retail, it's repeat business that will keep you going

WILLIAM T. BELO, founder and CEO of Wilcon Builders' Supply Inc., started small. He established a corner hardware store with two cousins and three employees. Back in 1977, that first outlet occupied only a 60 square meter area along Quezon Ave. After expanding to various locations, Wilcon became one of the top construction supply companies in the country in 1995. Fast forward to 2006, almost 30 years later. He has expanded and diversified his company into eight outlets of Wilcon Builders' Supply and six outlets of the larger Wilcon Builders' Depot with complete home building products from ceramic tiles to appliances and furniture.

Belo recounts that at age 26, the flexibility that cannot be associated with a regular 9 to 5 job attracted him to become an entrepreneur. The flexibility in terms of his outfit's profitability also motivated him. As he says, "When it's your business, the sky's the limit."

Even then, he had an ability to look over things on a long-term basis. He saw right away that dealing with housing and construction materials is a continuous business. "It's very basic, like food and water. People will build homes, and they will regularly need materials to maintain their homes," he asserts. He also discounts the notion that retail has its ups and downs. He maintains, "You always go for repeat business with your customers, so you'll never be out of business when it comes to retailing."

During the early years of Wilcon, Belo worked really hard. From selling, manning the cashier to delivery, checking the stocks, he used to do even the menial tasks as much as he could. This does not mean, though, that he has slowed down. He is still "very much involved up to now. I'd say I'm 110 percent committed, from choosing the products for sale in our display areas to checking our depots in the morning."

He starts each day by checking their warehouses and outlets. He makes it a point that the important people report to him directly. It also helps that he knows most employees from the supervisory level up, as well as those employees who have been with the Wilcon organization for 10-15 years.

Over the years, Belo has carefully expanded Wilcon to bigger and better outlets, in a move to be closer to more customers in the booming areas of the metropolis. His first store, on a rented location, is still there, although it's much bigger now. "As they say, you just can't leave a place where you found lady luck. It's also for sentimental reasons," he explains. He also made sure that Wilcon invests wisely: all store locations are now company owned, except one more outlet aside from the original.

He is also quick to share that not only he has found success with his venture. Of his first corporate brood of two cousins and three employees, two have reaped the fruits of their labor. The said cousin is still a business partner and now heads Wilcon's external affairs office. One of the first three employees now heads the dispatch unit. "I believe they stayed because they saw the opportunity for growth early on, and they achieved professional and personal growth as the company became bigger in size," Belo shares.

Ever since they started, Belo has made it a commitment to offer Filipinos quality housing products from all over the world. "When we were starting, if Filipinos wanted quality products, they had to travel to the US or other countries to get the quality they desired. Since we started in 1977, Wilcon has made it a commitment to bring those quality products here. Thus, Filipinos save a lot on travel costs."

That firm commitment remains true to this day. Wilcon offers Filipinos a wide range of top choices, from Kohler bathroom fixtures to designer ceramic tiles from Italy and Spain. Many of these are also available exclusively at Wilcon.

So, what are the keys to his success? Unexpectedly, he mentions his employees. According to him, "You can never underestimate the importance and the contributions of your personnel." He also mentions integrity, a good reputation, and delivering on his promises (what Filipinos locally call palabra de honor in Spanish).

Aspiring entrepreneurs all over the country do have a lot to learn from Belo. "Be prepared to do hard work. Know your line of business by heart. Have a lot of integrity. These can make you a success," he asserts.

When asked what items in his living room will catch a visitor's attention, Belo quickly replies, "I believe every room of your home is a reflection of who you are. For instance, the floor covering and furniture pieces in my living room are well coordinated and reflect my taste. I am proud to say that I personally chose them."

When it comes to the dining room and kitchen, he stresses cleanliness and an appealing ambiance. He shares that his family loves cooking, so it is vital that his kitchen has a huge work area, the cabinets are perfectly coordinated, and the utensils and ingredients can be found easily.

As a home improvement entrepreneur and expert, Belo is expected to have a deluxe bathroom and master's bedroom. He loves to spend time in his relaxing whirlpool bath, sometimes just looking at the Italian and Spanish tiles that make his bathroom really elegant. As for his bedroom, it is of course a sanctuary for relaxation, perfect for unwinding after a hard day's work.

His garden is also well taken care of. "Greeneries are the most important part of a garden. A spacious lawn and the perfect placement of plants, ornaments, and outdoor furniture make a garden beautiful."

Quality homebuilding materials are showcased in his home… all from Wilcon Builders' Depot of course.

WILLIAM Belo

When Donald meets Jerry

THE PHILIPPINES' answer to Yahoo! is more than a duck-and-mouse game.

In the early 90s, a young graduate student from Stanford University began to feel increasingly frustrated at his inability to sort through tens of thousands of information on the worldwide web.

This was during the early days of the Internet but Jerry Yang, way ahead of his time, already begun surfing the web in earnest. So to organize his late-night fun, Jerry, together with fellow student David Filo, designed the Yahoo! search engine to locate web sites they liked.

Two years later and thousands of miles away, five college students from the Ateneo de Manila University—now familiar with the features of what had since become the overnight hit Yahoo!—began to feel increasingly frustrated at the search engine's disconnection with Filipinos' presence on the web.

Searching for a "home" they can call their own on cyberspace, the barkada designed a maverick portal that would eventually pave the way for Filipinos to create a global village, albeit virtually.

Thus was born Yehey!

Nearly a decade since and Yehey! has become a Cinderella story. The portal generates over 30 million page views a month (of which, 1.8 million are unique visitors) and boasts of over 280,000 registered users.

The Filipino site has come on its own, and now proudly brandishes its local lineage with the tagline, "Pinoy 'To P're!" ("This is Filipino!").

Someone constantly tuned in to Yehey! almost 24/7 is a young professional who is more Pinoy than his looks and last name: Donald Patrick Lim, company president and CEO.

Like Yahoo!'s Jerry Yang when he started out in the business, Donald is also young (29 years old). Unlike Jerry, however, Donald is no geek from Silicon Valley, though he also looks the part.

In many ways, Donald is just like tens of thousands of curious young and young-at-heart who can't stop tinkering with the latest technology, can't take their eyes off their computer screens, or their minds off learning.

Like Jerry, he also seems to do this faster than most of humanity.

For one thing, Donald whizzed from jobless college graduate to head of the country's top web portal in less than a decade. He took the helm of Yehey! in October 2005, coming off from a highly successful stint as vice-president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer—where he was promoted twice in his less than four years-an achievement largely unprecedented for someone his age yet hardly undeserved.

A top management graduate of the Ateneo, Donald used to work as management trainee of Burger King then worked his way up to marketing manager in a span of only three years.

Along the way, he got an MBA through the offshore program of Murdoch University in Australia, obtained diplomas in hotel and restaurant management, executive management, interior decorating, and Pelmanism.

On top of Yehey!, Donald also oversees five other businesses of his own. He also offers management consulting for upcoming brands and businesses.

A key figure in marketing events and competitions, he's one of only 24 certified marketing professionals in the country and was last year's president of the Philippine Marketing Association-the umbrella group of marketers in the country.

Yet all his rigorous real world and classroom training only served to prepare Donald for his most challenging job yet-rebranding and redefining Yehey! from an efficient yet generic search and e-commerce portal to a highly specific, comprehensive, one-stop portal that addresses virtually everything a Filipino online needs.

"Yehey! is very, very Pinoy," says Donald. "It is synonymous to Filipino search."

Under Donald's leadership, Yehey! has recently undergone a makeover, becoming even more Filipino than ever. From its logo and overall look, to its highly localized and comprehensive content, to features and games that focus on well-loved Pinoy icons.

Donald adds that the ultimate goal is to introduce a "change in lifestyle." This may be covered by Yehey!'s Pinoy search, messenger, online world, breta (points system), or anything that will bring the current "offline" way of life to the next level of online interaction.

All this bodes well for the student, the young professional, the senior manager, the overseas Filipino worker, and anyone else who wants to take a closer look at the Philippines.

"We want to provide a venue for specific Filipino needs and execute it efficiently and creatively but with a touch of Pinoy since most of these services are also being provided by our international competitors (such as Yahoo! and Google)," he says. "Our core objective is to build our own services fit for the Pinoy lifestyle."

For Donald, the era of the global Pinoy has just begun.

THE MAN BEHIND YEHEY! If Yahoo!'s Jerry Yang was the "Geek from God," Donald Lim of Yehey! could very well be the "Renaissance Man" of the virtual world.

DONALD Lim

Ad folks turn green to honor a creative great

By Marlet D. Salazar

KEN KAESS was much well-loved in one of the largest advertising agencies in the world. Carrying on the company's heritage of "creative revolution," DDB Philippines spearheaded a tribute to the chair of DDB Worldwide who passed away, by sponsoring the planting of trees in the La Mesa Watershed.

John Ziegler, DDB Asia Pacific regional director, flew in from Australia to attend the event attended by over 50 DDB employees.

"The DDB Philippines agency had the idea and they wanted to do something socially positive," Ziegler said. "With Ken's passing they think it's a great opportunity to dedicate an activity like this to him."

Ziegler also said, "This is not only a great community effort but also a great way of people getting together to do something in a way than bigger than ourselves bigger than our business."

Kaess was a major force in the advertising industry. He began his career in 1977 at Doyle Dane Bernbach (now called DDB).

He left for a vice president and management supervisor position at Jordan, McGrath, Case & Taylor.

Kaess is instrumental for the Emmy Award-winning "Muppet Babies" when he joined the New World Entertainment. Prior to occupying the CEO position in 2001, Kaess manned DDB's Los Angeles and New York offices. In 1999 he was named worldwide president.

"He was more a man who empowers other people and supports them," Ziegler said of Kaess before the tree planting. "He was able to bring out the best in all of us. When he came into a room he didn't have to sing to have other people feel happier because everyone knew he was there that's a sign a very special person in their world today."

Ziegler came with Kaess to New York after the latter hired him. He was later tasked to run Asia Pacific.

"What Ken did was he took us outside of a narrowly designed advertising focus," Ziegler said. "He started to push us toward thinking about how do we deliver for our clients across all disciplines and how we take a focus for our clients based on what they need as opposed to what we have to sell."

DDB is known for its "creative revolution" heritage and Kaess carried on that principle. He steered the company to be known as one of the best brand builders worldwide.

The philosophy which DDB lives is "Better ideas, better results" by. Its clients include SmMart Telecom, Johnson and Johnson, Philips, McDonald's MasterCard, Henkel and Chlorox.

In the late 1970s, the then known Doyle Dane Bernback hired the young Ken as an account executive in its New York office.

After a brief hiatus from the advertising world, Kaess returned to his DDB family as president of DDB Entertainment in Los Angeles. Two years later he took over as president of the whole LA office.

In January 2001, Kaess assumed the CEO spot adding to his two other positions as president of DDB Worldwide and chair of its Worldwide Operating Committee.

Ziegler believes that the tribute at La Mesa Watershed serves as Kaess' legacy.

"I think his legacy is reflected in part in what we're doing today," Zieglers said. "He has planted very important seeds in this business: seeds on how to think about a business in a different way; what we need to do for the future."

PHILIPS Philippines president and CEO Med Mateo (in checkered shirt) hands over a housing certificate to one of the 20 families-beneficiaries of the GK Philips Village in Calamba, Laguna. With Mateo is Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto (2nd from left).
The village showcases Filipino and Dutch resources because of Royal Philips Electronics president Gerard Kleisterlee's commitment to the project, the participation of Philips Philippines employees in building the houses which reflect Dutch symbols. And motifs like the windmill will be put up soon.

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CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Floor Area: 777 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 16, San Francisco St., Guadanoville Subd., Novaliches Dist.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000

LOT 2
WITHDRAWN

LAS PINAS CITY

LOT 3 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area: 1,708 sqm.
Floor Area: 2,174 sqm.
Jose Compd., No. 889 J. Aguilar Ave., Casimiro
Minimum Bid Price: 5,500,000

LOT 4 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 69.81 sqm.
Unit 307, 318 Interior Gallery Condo., Alabang Zapote Rd
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,761 + 8,435 sqm.
Lot 1, Quirino Ave., Brgy. Pulang Lupa
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000,000

MAKATI CITY

LOT 6 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 189.18 sqm.
Unit#102, GF, Le Metropole Condo., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor Tordesillas & H.V.Dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: 10,000,000

LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 550 sqm.
L17 B26, #7761 St. Paul Rd. San Antonio Village
Minimum Bid Price: 9,000,000

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 362 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,533 sqm.
#8060 Richworld Center Estrella St. San Antonio Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: 10,000,000

LOT 9 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 34.26 sqm.
Unit G-43, South Star Plaza Condo(Cityland V), South Super Highway, Bangkal
Minimum Bid Price: 730,000

LOT 10 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 69.91 sqm.
Unit G-3 G/F, Westgate Condo., HV Dela Costa & Bautista Sts., Salcedo Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,800,000

LOT 11 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 52.47 sqm.
Unit No. P1 (LPH 01), Lower Penthouse, Asian Mansion II, Dela Rosa cor. Nieva Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,300,000

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 655 sqm.
Floor Area: 237 sqm.
Lot 4, P. Binay cor. Zanzibar St.
Minimum Bid Price: 8,500,000

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 250 sqm.
L24 B3, Kalayaan Ave., Brgy. Pinagkaisahan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,700,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 224.4 sqm.
Floor Area: 278.7 sqm.
#3 Lawson St., Bo. Bagong Silang
Minimum Bid Price: 3,300,000

LOT 15 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 447 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,212 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 567, #122 P. Cruz St., Brgy. New Zaniga
Minimum Bid Price: 7,000,000

LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 489 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,495.11 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 1, No. 623 Maharlika St., cor. Sikap and Malaya Streets, Brgy. Plainview
Minimum Bid Price: 14,000,000

LOT 17 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 41.11 sqm.
Unit 807-B 8F, Wack-wack Twin Tower (Tower B) Wack Wack Rd., Wack-wack Subd., Brgy. H-way Hills
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000

MANILA

LOT 18
WITHDRAWN

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 259.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 19-A, #200 Clavel St., San Nicolas Dist.
Minimum Bid Price: 8,000,000

LOT 20 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 166.45 sqm.
Unit 901, 9F Sunshine Mansion Condo., Aguilar St., Binondo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,500,000

LOT 21 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 106 + 11 sqm.
Unit 15-C, 15F, Ocean Tower, 2044 Roxas Blvd., Ermita
Minimum Bid Price: 4,800,000

LOT 22 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 105.23 sqm.
Unit D-326, 3F Landwealth PUDS IV (Metrohomes) Condo, # 1195 Juan Luna St., Prili, Tondo
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000

LOT 23 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 36.75 sqm.
Unit 5-D, 5F, Southside Mansion, No. 2570 G. Del Pilar, Sta. Ana
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000

MARIKINA CITY

LOT 24 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 95 sqm.
Floor Area: 77 sqm.
Lot 6-C-3-A-1, No. 2 Champaca St., cor. 1st. Ave., Duplex Compound, Brgy. Parang
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 693 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 2, Soldiers Hills Rd., Brgy. Putatan
Minimum Bid Price: 6,000,000

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Floor Area: 251 sqm.
L41 B23, No. 114 Solven Alvendia Ave., South Greenheights Subd., Brgy. Putatan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,883 sqm.
Lot 6 & 10 Road Lot, Brgy. Cupang
Minimum Bid Price: 30,000,000

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 28 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area: 3,452 sqm.
Floor Area: 2,331 sqm.
No. 151 Quirino Ave., Baclaran
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000,000

LOT 29 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 172.69 sqm.
Unit 2202, 22F, Pacific Coast Plaza Condo., Aguinaldo Blvd. cor. 1st Villamar
Minimum Bid Price: 3,600,000

LOT 30 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area: 83 sqm.
Floor Area: 80 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 4 Hamilton Gardens, Better Living Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000

LOT 31 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area: 109.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 127 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 4 Hamilton Gardens, Better Living Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000

LOT 32 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 154 sqm.
Unit#1205, 12F, Bayview Int'l Towers (Tower 3), Roxas Blvd
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000,000

LOT 33 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 71.5 + 10 sqm.
Unit 504, 5/F Bayview Intl. Tower 3, Roxas Blvd. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 2,400,000

LOT 34 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 207.5 sqm.
Unit 1502, 15F, Bayview Intl. Tower 3, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 6,500,000

LOT 35 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 176 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit 1202, 12F, Bayview Intl. Tower 1, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 5,900,000

LOT 36 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 68 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit # 1103-A 11F Bayview Intl. Tower 2, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000

LOT 37 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 153 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit 1901, 19F, Bayview Intl. Tower 2, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 5,200,000

PASAY CITY

LOT 38 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,405 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,333 sqm.
Lot 30, # 2710 Figueroa St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price: 24,000,000

LOT 39 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 101.73 sqm.
Unit 307, 3F, Jolliland Condo., 670 EDSA
Minimum Bid Price: 2,260,000

LOT 40 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 100.8 sqm.
Unit 305, 3F, Jolliland Condo., 670 EDSA
Minimum Bid Price: 2,240,000

LOT 41 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area: 62.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 176.1 sqm.
Unit 22, Edsa Mansion 1, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000

PASIG CITY

LOT 42 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 154.84 sqm.
Units 501 & 502, 5F, Pacific Center Condo., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, (with Parking # 62)
Minimum Bid Price: 4,500,000

LOT 43 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 127.2 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit 1205, 12/F Horizon Condo Meralco Ave., Ortigas
Minimum Bid Price: 4,200,000

LOT 44 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 75.16 sqm.
Unit 2508, 25F, Renaissance 2000, Renaissance Center, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price: 2,300,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,802 sqm.
Floor Area: 200 sqm.
No. 97 Visayas Ave., Project 6
Minimum Bid Price: 50,000,000

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,078.50 sqm.
Lot 908-B-2-B-2, Quirino Highway cor. Unnamed Road, Brgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 12,000,000

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 558.1 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,110 sqm.
No. 102 Roosevelt Ave., Brgy. Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price: 11,600,000

LOT 48 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area: 9,858 sqm.
Floor Area: 3,766 sqm.
L 150-H No. 173 Gen. Luis cor. Damong Maliit Sts., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 50,000,000

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 812 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 4, Unnamed Rd., Kapalaran Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 4,000,000

LOT 50 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 413.2 sqm.
Floor Area: 491 sqm.
Blk. LCH-220, Bignay St., Project 2, Quirino District
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000,000

LOT 51
WITHDRAWN

LOT 52 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 90.5 sqm.
Unit-B, 12F, One Burgundy Plaza Condo., 307 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price: 3,500,000

LOT 53 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 441 sqm.
Floor Area: 670 sqm.
L13 Blk. S-39, Mindanao Avenue, Neopolitan Subd., Pasong Putik
Minimum Bid Price: 9,000,000

SAN JUAN

LOT 54 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 446 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,230 sqm.
No. 326 Callejon St., Infante Compound, Brgy. Little Baguio, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 10,500,000

LOT 55 – CONDO-RSDL
Lot Area: 169.36 sqm.
Unit 304, Goldhill Tower No. 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price: 3,000,000

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 56 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 332 sqm.
Lot1 Blk. 17, Batangas St. cor. Kona St., Arbortowne Subd., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000

CAVITE

LOT 57 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 70.71 sqm.
Unit 35B, Cluster Bato-bato, Vista De Loro Heights, Puerto Azul, Ternate
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000

LOT 58 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,263 sqm.
Lot 4-B, 2127 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price: 12,000,000

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,600 sqm.
Lot 10-A, Brgy. Iruhin, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price: 3,380,000

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DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Floor Price
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
AM-RT-127	House and lot (TCT T-100505)	370	No. 24, Tulip Road, Pilar Village, Almanza, Las Piñas City	P 2,454,300.00
CAVITE				
AM-FD-128	House and lot (TCT T-1143334)	42	Lot 8, Blk 22, Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus	P 167,600.00
AM-FC-059	House and Lot (TCT T-1143391)	40	Lot 10 Blk. 27, Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus	P 154,000.00
CEBU				
AM-DE-129	House and lot (TD No. 15387)	449	Poblacion, Compostela	P 797,000.00
BOG-001	Residential/commercial lot (TCT 153689) with residential/apartment bldg. & imp.	1,045	General Echavez St., Brgy. Zapatera, Cebu City	P 8,500,000.00
DAVAO				
AM-RT-130	3 contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-369591, T-369590 & T-369589) with bldgs.	2,235	Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande, Davao City	P 5,125,000.00
GENERAL SANTOS				
AM-DE-131	Residential lot (TCT No.T-99816) with residential bldgs.	400	Paralejas Subdivision, City Heights, General Santos City	P 815,900.00
LAGUNA				
STR-ERM	10 individually titled lot (TCT Nos. T-344369, T-344370, T-344371, T-344372, T-344373, T-344374, T-344375, T-344376 (road lot), T-342544, T-342545) being utilized as resort compound consisting of a resort hotel, an executive house / residence with attic, 2-storey reception / seminar hall, ten (10) units family cottages, a chapel, twenty (20) units picnic huts, a gazebo, comfort rooms, swimming pools, landscaping/ waterscaping, windmill, restaurant, guard house, walkway/pathway, parking lot, and perimeter fence.	10,000	Brgy. Bagong Kalsada, Calamba City	P 56,102,400.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
AM-PY-132	One (1) lot coconut oil processing equipment		Brgy. Banao, Guinobatan, Albay	P 1,408,400.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1568/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, (049) 534-2820 to 21 for STR and 818-9511 loc. 1707.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – June 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR
Bislig City
THE BISLIG CITY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

JBIC Loan PH-P200

SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SCHOOL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) through the Department of Education has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) last December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the proposed construction of various School Building Projects in Bislig City. Disbursement of the ODA Loan from JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of Loan Agreement PH-P200. No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds.
2. The Local Goverment Unit of Bislig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to enter into contract based on award for the Construction of the following listed projects:

School/Location	SEDIP Building Type	Scope of Works	Construction Duration
1) Bislig NHS-Mabog Extension Brgy. Mabog, Bislig City	1) SS-Three Classroom Bldg with Toilets	See volume I, Instruction to Bidders Section IB-1.2	90 CD
	2) SS Science Laboratory Building	-do-	
	3) SS-Home Economics Building	-do-	
	4) Water Supply - Rain Collector Tank		
2) Bislig NHS-Maharlika Annex Brgy. Maharlika, Bislig City	1) SS-Library w/ Guidance & Faculty Bldg.	See Volume I Instruction to Bidders Section IB-1.2	65 CD
3) Bislig NHS-Bucto Extension Brgy. Bucto, Bislig City	1) SS-Home Economics Building	-do-	65 CD
4) Bislig NHS-Tumanan Extension Brgy. Tumanan, Bislig City	1) SS-Home Economics Building	-do-	65 CD
5) Bislig NHS-San Jose Extension Brgy. San Jose, Bislig City	1) SS-Home Economics Building 2) Water Supply - Rain Collector Tank	-do-	65 CD

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the JBIC's Local Competitive Bidding procedures and is open to all Bidder's from eligible source countries as defined in the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans".
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 4,500.00 for Item #1, and P1,500 for Item #2,3,4, & 5 from the SEDIP-NPMO, DepED Division of Surigao del Sur and the BAC Office of Bislig City. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative, which will be issued on June 24, 2006 to July 12, 2006.
5. The BAC-Bislig City will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on 2:00 P.M.; July 14, 2006 at the City Engineering Office Conference Room, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
6. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the City Engineering Office, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur on or before 2:00 P.M., July 26, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security as indicated in Volume 1 of the Bid Documents. Late Bids will not be accepted. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) will only be disclosed by BAC after the opening of bids in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or its authorized representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids
7. JBIC requires that all bidders and contractors as well as the LGU and DepED-SEDIP, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts in pursuance of this policy, JBIC.
   - a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recomended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   - b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time if it, at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing another contract financed in part from JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
8. The BAC of Bislig City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) MR. WINSTON Y. SIA
Name and Signature of the BAC Chairman
or Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

Telephone No.: 086-853-2452 • Telefax No.: none
E-mail or Web Site Address: none
(PDI–June 23 & 30, 2006)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632 4301, 632 4084, 632 4444; Fax No. 636 2577
Email: psantiago@adb.org, nmanalo@adb.org or hdechavez@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for CONTRACT NO. ADB/OAS-2006/022

(Commissary Management Services)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification required in subsequent bidding exercise for the provision of commissary management services at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The Contractor shall perform the services with skilled personnel and necessary supervision, appropriate equipment to manage, operate and maintain the tax-exempt Commissary facility located within the ADB premises. The Contractor shall operate and manage the Commissary and conduct sales operations of various grocery items, frozen and chilled products, wines and spirits, tobacco and other products as directed by the ADB in accordance and compliance with the existing policies, instructions, standards and procedures to the operation of the ADB's Commissary, as may be established by the ADB from time to time.
3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible members of ADB.
4. Interested eligible applicants may request further information by calling, writing or faxing, the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administration Services, Asian Development Bank at the contact address specified above starting from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
5. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of the Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **26 June to 30 June 2006** on any working day, **9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (PhP500.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
6. Two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of the applications should be submitted each in a sealed envelope marked **"Application to Prequalify for the Commissary Management Services"** addressed to the attention of **"Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services"** and should reach ADB not later than **3:00 p.m. on 11 July 2006**. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
7. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the result of the applications. All prequalified applicants will be contacted and issued the Bidding Document.
8. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant.

CÉCILE L.H.F. GREGORY
Director, Institutional Services Division
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI–June 22 & 23, 2006)

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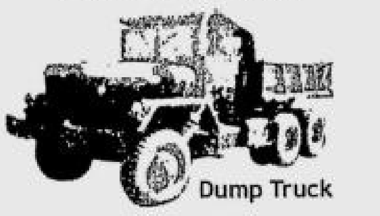

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Montreux Energy Rountable held

PARTICIPANTS AT the 17th Montreux Energy Roundtable held in Montreux, Switzerland last June 12 to 14, 2006 lauded the Philippines for its pioneering efforts to bring geothermal and wind power into the renewable energy mainstream.

Dr. Marianne Haug, Board Chairman of Germany's Forum for Energy Policy and Technology and former World Bank Director for Southeast Asia, congratulated Dr. Alan T. Ortiz, President and CEO of the National Transmission Corporation, for assuring the Roundtable of the Philippines' unrelenting commitment to developing the use of bio-energy and other forms of renewable energy.

During the session on Geopolitics and Energy Security chaired by Dr. Subroto, former Chair-man of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and ex-minister of Mines and Energy of Indonesia, Dr. Ortiz called on all participants to understand and act on the root causes of terrorism. Dr. Ortiz said, "…energy security can only begin when national and international energy companies immerse themselves in the progress and development, aspirations of their host communities."

The Montreux Energy Roundtable is an annual conference attended by select chief executives of energy-related companies. Among its distinguished roster of guest speakers this year are Dr. Amory Lovins, co-founder and CEO of Rocky Mountain Institute, and Dr. John Gault, Editor of the Journal of Energy Finance and Development.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites specialty works contractors to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Installation of Elevators & Escalators for the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC)
Location : North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Elevators & Escalators
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 13,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess valid licenses / permits / certifications applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for the last two years, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of the Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 29, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 29, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 3 & 4, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 17, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Technical Plans, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference only to bidders declared to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 28, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Repair / Improvement of Capitol Building
Location : Capitol Compound, Cebu City
Brief Description : Repair and Improvement works for the Capitol Main Building
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,957,874.45
Contract Duration : 100 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 30, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 30, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 30, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 6, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 07, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 12, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 24, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 253-3105.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications, only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 28, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites specialty works contractors to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Air Conditioning System for the Cebu International Convention Center
Location : North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City
Brief Description : Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Chillers & FCUs
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 35,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess valid licenses / permits / certifications applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for the last two years, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 29, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 29, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 3 & 4, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 17, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Technical Plans, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference only to bidders declared to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 28, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 928-5691 * Telfax No. (632) 922-2568 / (632) 920-2439

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), through its Special Bids and Awards Committee (*Committee*), is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Assignment of MWSS' Receivables and its Right and Obligation to Subscribe to 83.97% Equity in Maynilad Water Services, Inc.** (Transaction).

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures and shall be governed by applicable Philippine laws, rules and regulations. The bidding process for the Transaction shall have three (3) phases, namely: Phase 1 (Preparation Phase); Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase); and Phase 3 (Bidding Phase).

Interested parties may secure copies of the Bidding Documents, which include the Instructions to Bidders (ITB), at the Secretariat of the MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee, located at the Sr. Deputy Administrator's Office, Ground Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines, starting on **26 June 2006 until 10 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand US Dollars (US$5,000.00).** The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representatives. All interested parties securing copies of the Bidding Documents shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the said Bidding Documents and to signify their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents by executing the form attached to the Bidding Documents as Schedule 2 (Acknowledgment) and submitting the same to the Committee at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006**. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Documents and submitted the Acknowledgment before the deadline provided therefor shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Late submission of the Required Documents shall not be accepted.

Interested parties who have submitted the Acknowledgment within the deadline provided above shall submit the Required Documents enumerated in Clause 7.1 of the ITB to the Committee at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006.** The Committee shall inform the interested parties no later than 26 July 2006 if they are eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction.

Interested parties who are found eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction may secure copies of the Bidding Materials enumerated in Clause 8.1 of the ITB at the address given below starting on **26 July 2006 until 28 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand US Dollars (US$1,000.00). The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Materials shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representative. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Materials shall be allowed to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction as "Bidders".

The Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Documents enumerated in Clause 11.1 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 12 of the ITB at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 11 August 2006.** The Committee shall inform the Bidders no later than 25 August 2006 if the said Bidders have pre-qualified and are eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction. Only those Bidders who have pre-qualified and are deemed eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process by the Committee shall be allowed to further participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process as "Qualified Bidders". Late submission of the Eligibility Documents shall not be accepted.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at **2:00 p.m. on 27 September 2006** at a place to be announced later.

Qualified Bidders must submit their Bid Proposals compliant with Clause 19 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 21 of the ITB no later than **2:00 p.m. of 24 October 2006** at a place to be announced later. Late submission of Bid Proposals shall not be accepted.

The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid Proposals, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bid Proposals at any time prior to the award of the Transaction to the winning bidder, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

The MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify interested parties and/or bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their applications and bids.

(Sgd.) **OSCAR I. GARCIA**
Chairman
MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road,
Balara, Quezon City, Philippines

(PDI - June 17, 23 & 30, 2006)

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E-mail Add: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

Standard Form Number [illegible]
Revised on July 29, 2004
Contract Reference Number [illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUKIDNON**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF THE PROJECT : **Project I – Drugs and Medicines**
Project II – Medical, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents
LOCATION : **Provincial General Services Office**
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : For the use of Seven (7) Provincial Hospitals and Twenty Two (22) Health Stations for the second semester of CY 2006.
Approved Budget for the Contract : P18,841,403.82
P6,947,505.48
DELIVERY PERIOD : 15 working days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed.
PLACE OF DELIVERY : Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 19, 2006
2. Application for Eligibility	June 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.
3. Pre-bid conference	June 20, 2006
4. Opening of Bids Deadline for the submission of Bid documents	July 04, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. July 04, 2006 not later than 9:00 a.m.
5. Bid Evaluation	July 7, 2006
6. Post-qualification	July 14, 2006
7. Notice of Award	July 18, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to Prospective Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 for Project I and P1,000.00 for Project II at the **Provincial Treasurer's Office**.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the BAC office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City. All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equal to 1% for Cash, Certified check, Cashier's check, Manager's check, Bank draft or Irrevocable letter of credit; 1.5% for Bank guarantee; 2.5% for Surety bond of the **Approved Budget for the Contract as advertised.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **Province of Bukidnon** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES**
Prov'l Admin/BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 16 & 23, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telefax 636-65-42
Direct Line 636-65-43
Trunk Line 632 13-61 local 2115
Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Re-Bid)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply and Delivery of the following:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
Development and Mass Production of Video Lessons and User's Guide in Second Year Mathematics (Intermediate Algebra) in Compact Discs	Php2,100,000.00	June 22, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	July 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	Php1,000.00	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE)

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected

The Bidding Documents in Compact Disc (CD) or hard copy shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting June 15 up to Opening of Bids upon payment in cash of non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) Atty. **CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 16 & 23, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites specialty works contractors to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Installation of Standby Generator Set for the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC)
Location : North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Emergency Back up Power System for the CICC
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 19,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess valid licenses / permits / certifications applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for the last two years, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 29, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 29, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 3 & 4, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 17, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Technical Plans, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference only to bidders declared to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 28, 2006)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO BID

Being offered for sale through public bidding, as one whole lot and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, are seven (7) contiguous parcels of land with improvements, covered by various Transfer Certificates of Title (TCTs), with a total area of approximately 14.319 hectares for P143,654,000.00, located at Barrio Makiling, Calamba, Laguna, formerly belonging to Unisol Industries and Manufacturing Corporation (UNISOL).

All offers shall be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of other bidders on 06 July 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may avail of the Asset Specific Bidding Rules (ASBR) and Asset Specific Bidding Form (ASBF) for a nominal fee of PhP500.00 from the PMO Marketing Department, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John F. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 / 817-8762

(PDI – June 21, 22 & 23, 2006)

More Classified Ads: AFP-RSBS on Page A14;
TESDA & Davao City Water District on Page A22

BUSINESS

Call centers seen to grow SMEs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPANSION OF CALL CENTERS OUTside Metro Manila is expected to give rise to business opportunities for micro and small-sized businesses due to the creation of more jobs.

Raffy David, a director of the Call Center Association of the Philippines, said in an interview that the aggregate disposable income of those working in the sector has ballooned from an estimated P2.4 billion in 2003 to as much as P18.4 billion this year.

David, who is also a director of Pilipinas Teleserv Inc., said the ripple effect of the industry could be felt even among vendors of fish balls and "taho" or soy bean curd.

"While the growth of the entire industry may be slowing down due to its sheer size, its impact on the economy would be increasingly visible," David said.

He said call centers' dollar revenues were currently about a tenth of remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

But some observers from the government believe that the former would eventually replace the latter.

Also, David said that in a recent meeting of representatives of the Bangko Sentral and CCAP officials, the BSP said it would conduct this year a survey of the information technology-enabled service industry, including call centers.

Further, the official said that call center outfits were spawning new business districts at the Araneta Center area in Quezon City, Edsa Central in Mandaluyong City, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Bay City in Pasay City, Alabang in Muntinlupa; Greenhills in San Juan; Rockwell Center in Makati City; and Riverbanks in Marikina City.

But David said the ripple effect was not limited to the real estate developers and high-tech suppliers as even lowly enterprises such as cigarette vending would benefit.

Firms that immediately rode on the growth call centers were fastfood chains and cafés, canteen and cafeteria operators, and convenience stores.

Think long term, US bank advises investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTORS IN EMERGING MARKETS like the Philippines will be better off riding out the volatile financial markets than losing sleep over recent sell-offs caused by US interest rate hikes, American banking giant Citibank said yesterday.

Citibank Asia-Pacific head of research communications for investments Lim Ai Meun, who flew in from Singapore for a local briefing, said the apparent shift in risk appetite away from emerging markets was just temporary as US interest rates were not likely to go up significantly.

Lim said the US Federal Reserve's key interest rates would likely peak at 5.25 percent this year although a further hike to 5.5 percent was possible.

She said Citibank believed that the US Fed would not likely overshoot its concerns over inflation, given that interest rates take time to work into the markets.

Given this outlook, she said global markets would still seek investment opportunities in emerging market assets.

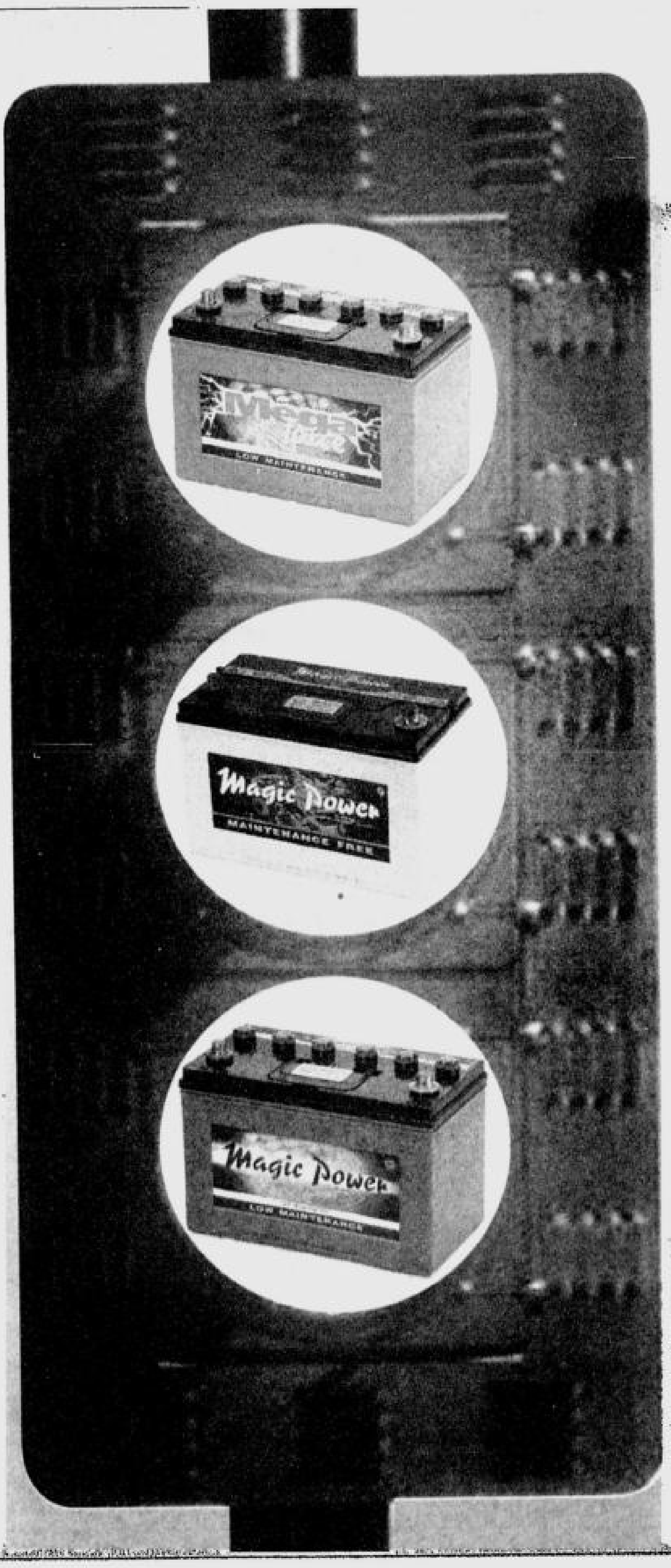
"Despite the broad sell-off in recent weeks, investors should not be tempted to trade in and out of mutual funds as this move can significantly erode their returns," Lim said.

She said that an investor who keeps investments for three years was likely to earn more than one who seeks short-term profits.

"If you believe that the fund will perform over the long term, holding on to your investment will ensure you don't miss out on the recovery," Lim said.

She said regional markets were just going back to the historical average levels in recent weeks, a correction that would continue in the short to medium term.

In the meantime, investors can review their portfolio and to limit their volatility, Lim suggested diversifying to other assets, including bonds and equities in developed and emerging markets.



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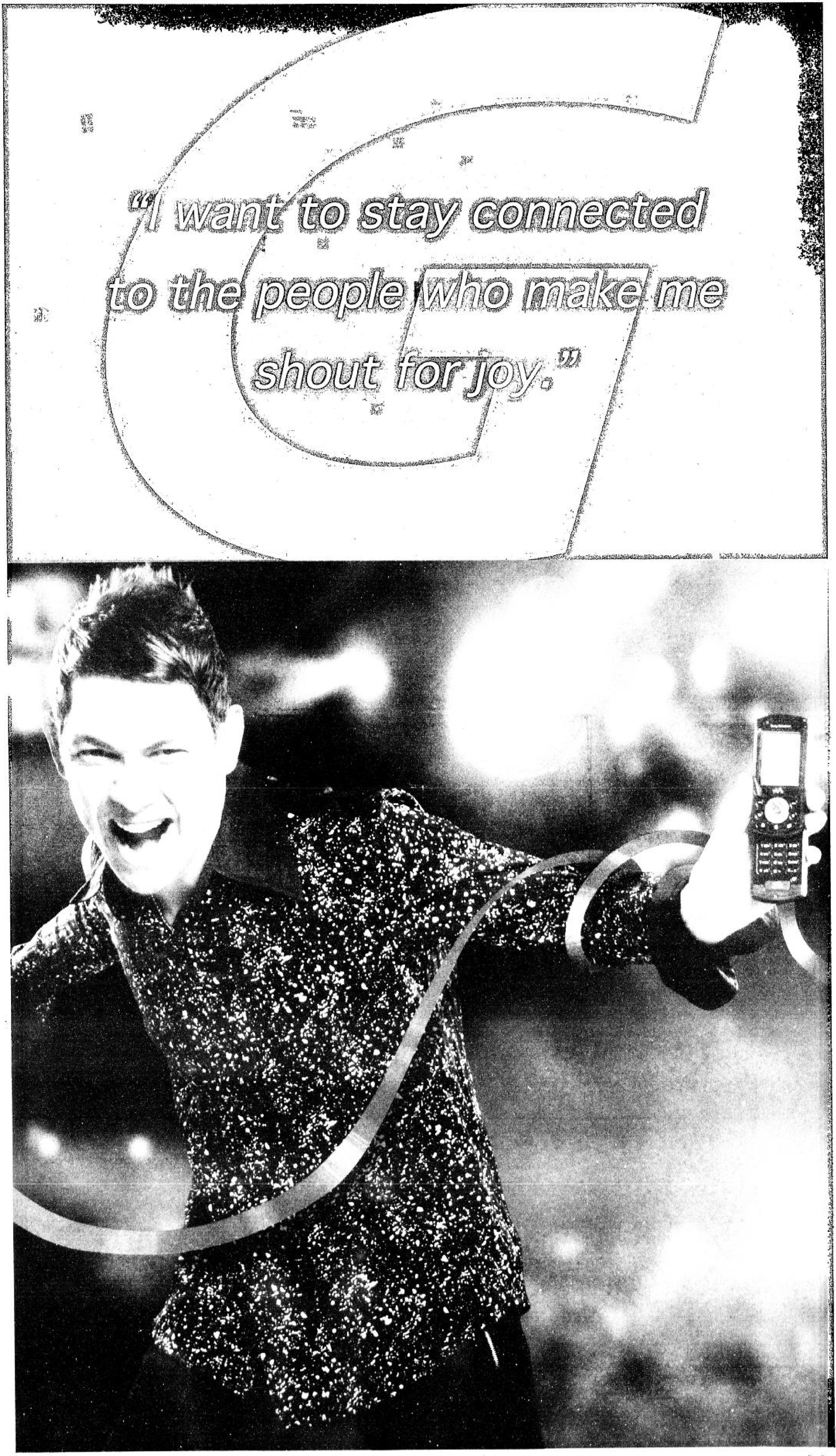
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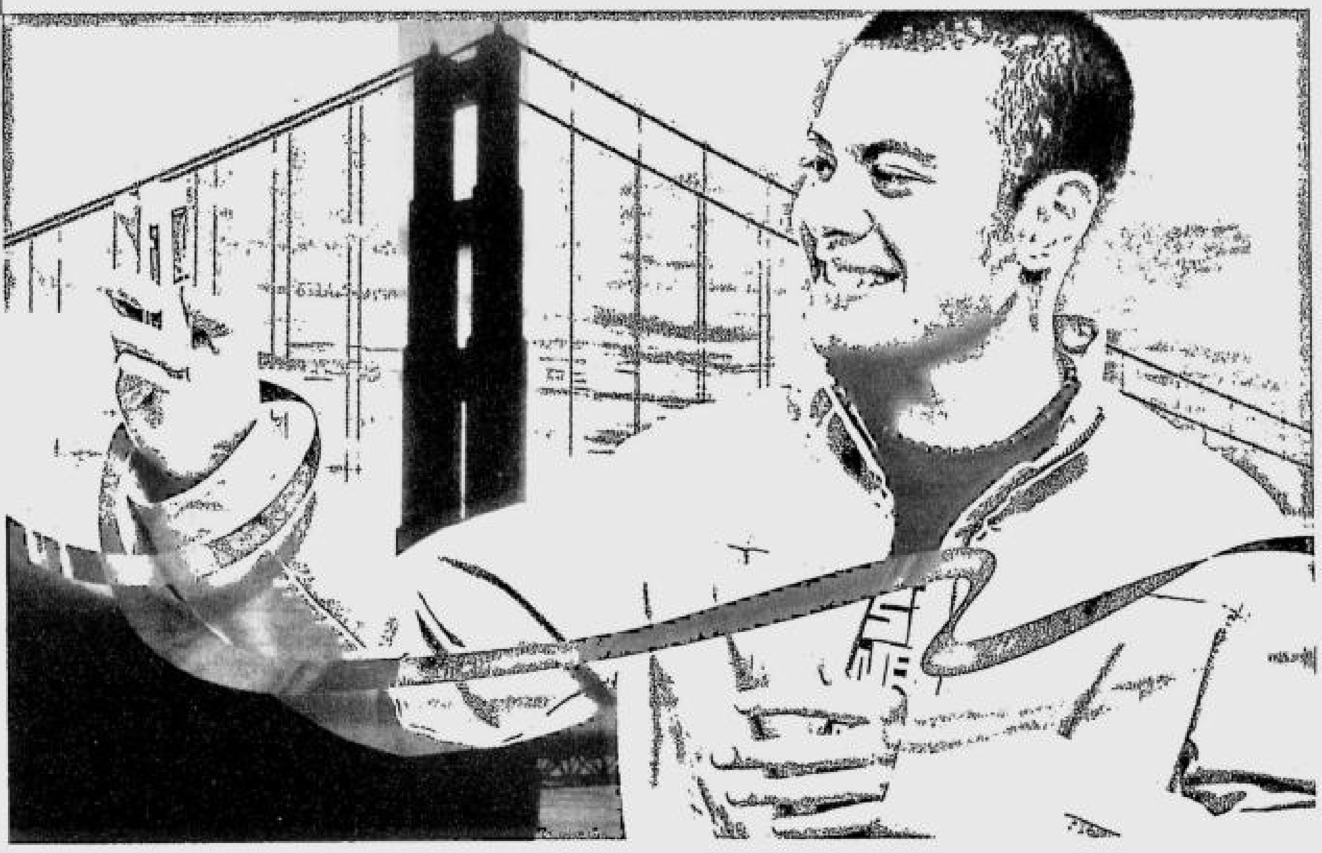

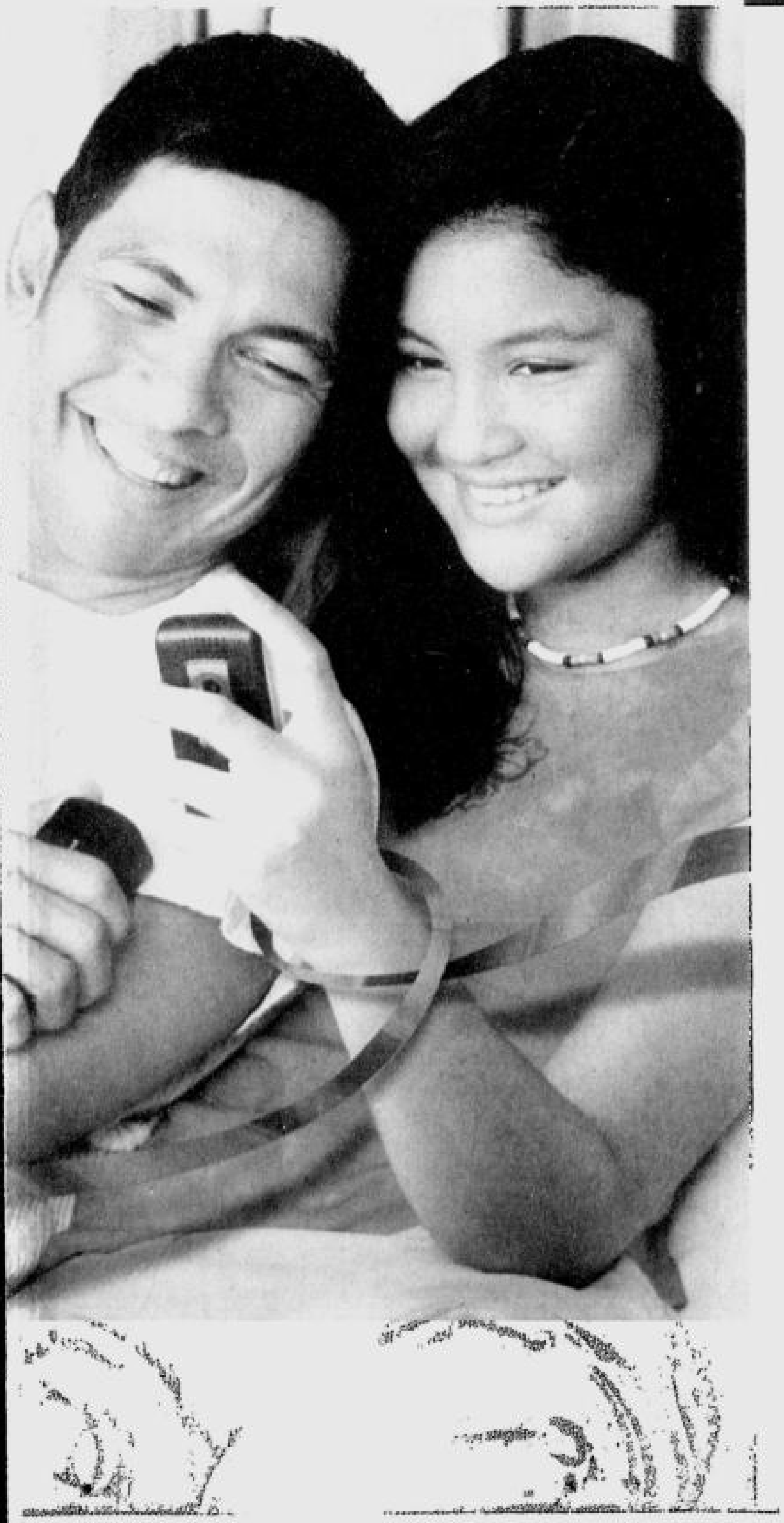

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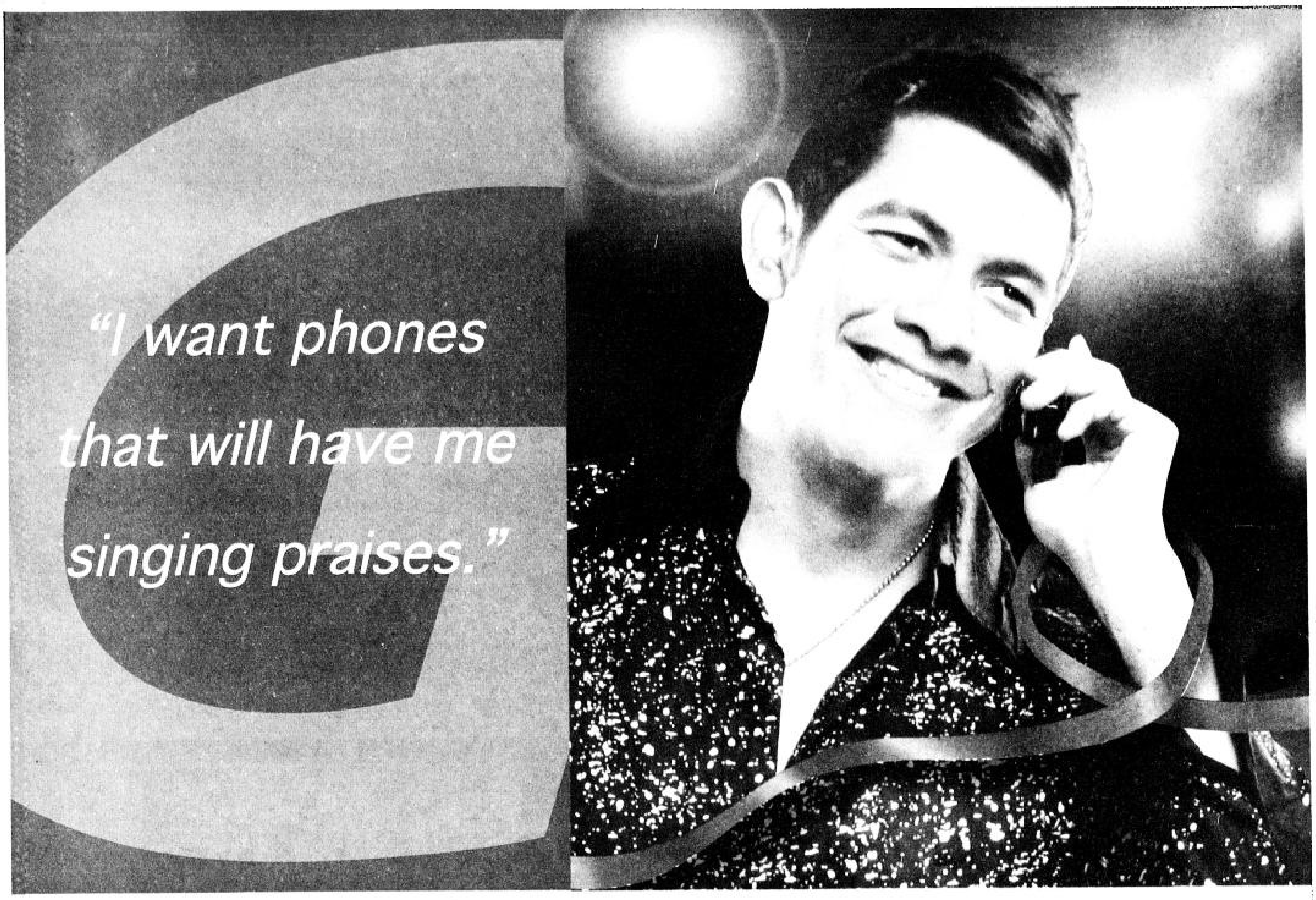

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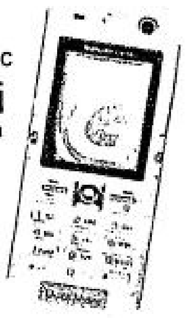

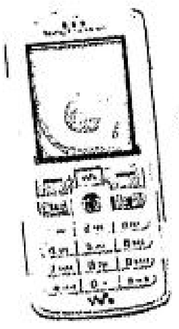

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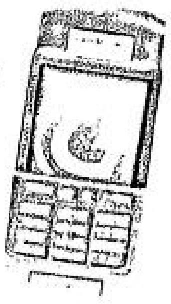

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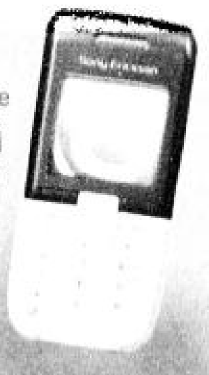

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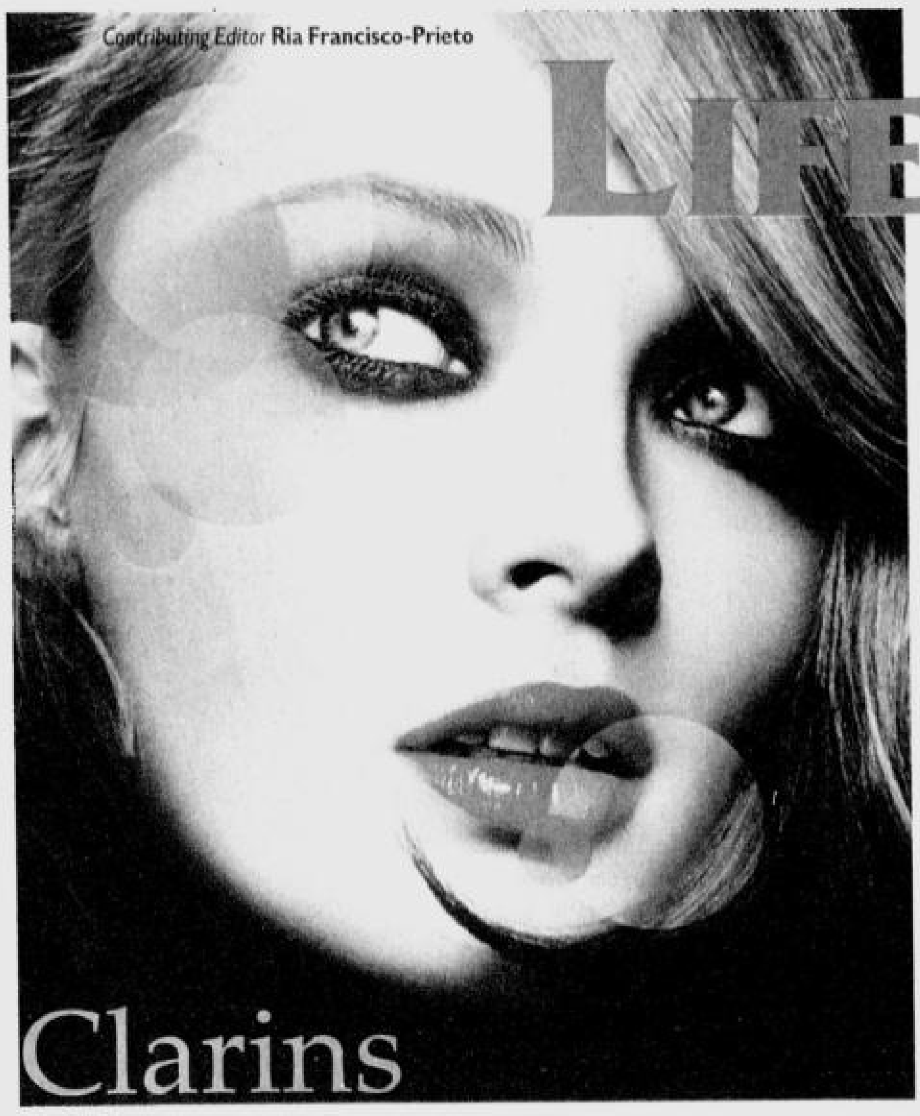
*Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1882 Series of 2006

LifeStyle

Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or **email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



Instant Smooth Perfecting Touch as makeup base and cover-up for fine lines, wrinkles and enlarged pores, P2,500
Quick Glow Puff Powder to illuminate the face with a subtle, iridescent bronze color, P1,800
Eyeliner Pencil in Plum, P625
Soft Cream Eye Color in Burnt Orange, P900
Wonder Volume Mascara in Wonder Blue, P1,000
Color Quench Lip Balm in Red Poppy, P810

Brand aid

It's good to be brand-conscious now and then—not so much for the price, but for the guarantee of quality these products provide

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I FIND MYSELF WALKING THROUGH THE counters of Rustan's a lot. Not because I'm a big shopper, but simply because I'm big on roaming. I've even noticed that nowadays when I do my "rounds," the sales staff sort of know what I'm doing so they figure they are better off not spending time on me.

BRAND/ D2

Powder foundation in Mont Blanc, P 2,750
Blush in Madly (seashell pink), P1,350
Loose powder in Flesh, P1,950
Eye Brightener in Vanilla, P1,550
Single eye shadow in Party Monster (lilac with gold shimmer), P1,150
Duo eye shadow in Star Sailor (heather gold and antique bronze), P1,750
Lip gloss in Sandpiper (shimmering amber coral), P1,350
Lip gloss in Orgasm (peachy pink with a touch of shimmer), P1,350

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Promo period is from June 1 to July 31, 2006.
Redemption is until August 30, 2006.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1342, Series of 2006.

T. Le Clerc

Multipurpose Color: Viole Nacre and Pretty Pink, P995
Transparent lipstick, P695
Lipgloss—Pink Delice, Sweet Pink and Pinky, P695
Eyeliner—Jolie, P695

Brand aid

From page D1

In short, I'm not a good prospect for a sales pitch, so I'm left alone in my happy place, wandering through the cosmetics department, testing and re-testing products from fragrances to eye shadow colors. Most of the time, I get home without having bought anything but I am happy as a clam.

I am a tough customer. Before I buy any beauty product I test it, look around just in case there's another product better suited for me, take into consideration the price, and how long I think I will be using it. I never bring my husband, because I had the mistake of taking him with me once and he was so exhausted when we got home.

Actually, he kept asking all throughout why I don't just buy the item. I had to explain to him that I was taking a lot of things into consideration since this was something I would be applying on my face. And since I was so prone to allergy, I had to be very careful.

Also there are a lot of things to think about when buying beauty products, like storage. I've noticed that everything bought will eventually just sit in one corner of my dresser.

I asked my husband to imagine we were actually buying a house, and he said he was lucky we weren't.

I think I'm just very practical. When it comes to beauty products it's good to be brand-conscious. I don't mean that if it's expensive it's automatically a better brand. That doesn't always hold true. But knowing what the brand stands for and what its benefits are will save you shopping time—and allow you to sample a lot more.

Due to my constant "roaming," I've become acquainted with some brands that would fit specific needs and wants. Check them out in this issue.

Awake

Aqua Fusion Makeup

Awake is known for its sheer wash of colors for that fresh and radiant look, featuring water-infused makeup to keep skin hydrated all day.

Aqua Trans Powder, P2,150
Exbright Hydro-up Makeup White, P1,950; compact, P500
Stardom Eye Tint in Blue Haze, P1,200
Stardom Gem Glint Liner in Purple Wine, P1,200
Stardom Sheer Glossy Lipstick in Topaz Jewel, P1,150

Bobbi Brown

Bobbi Brown is for real women with real lifestyles and needs in mind. The Bobbi Brown prestige line with its skin-tone correct shades and complexion-enhancing texture is modern, yet timeless, and works for all women.

"It's not about always blending two to three colors to get the perfect shade. It's about the one easy color that always works."
—Bobbi Brown

Clinique

"Great makeup is only as good as the skin beneath it."
To achieve great skin, Clinique's 3-Step Skincare system provides everyone with custom-fit products to suit their individual needs. Great skin deserves great makeup, and Clinique offers the most comprehensive array of foundations for every individual skin type, tone and concern. Clinique defines its moderately balanced look by making it easy, natural, and suitable for day or night.

Estee Lauder

The Estee Lauder woman is buoyant and amused—unquestionably exaggerated in her play with color. Her look is feminine with skin that is luminous, eyes encompassed with pure, shimmery pastel color on color. Lips are sheer, glimmering with high pearl, glittering with flirtation, achieving an overall look that is festive yet opulent, girlish yet glamorous.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Friday, June 23, 2006

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ABANGAN SA JULY 29
ABC
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	Wonderful Life	Gudtym			Insider
AXN		Sniper 2				Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	Beastmaster (Season I)		Andromeda (Season V)		Ultimate [illegible] World Records	E Buzz	Half Past Dead				Mute Witness	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door, The Grim Adventures [illegible] Double Episode	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	[illegible]	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		[illegible]				Now That I Have You				Hindi Kita Ma-Reach				[illegible]				Type Kita Walang Kokontra	
Cinemax		Lone Star (2:50 PM)				First Target			For Better Or Worse			Dinocroc			Taking Lives			The Ring (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel	Connect	Extreme Engineering		Sen Toku		How Do They Do It		Stay Alive		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It		Psychic Witness		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Videos	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	Dubai X Games - Day 3	15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup			15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Highlights	15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup			2006 [illegible] Pro Tour C'ships		Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight	15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup			Sportscenter Asia	2006 NBA Finals: Dallas vs. Miami		
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good [illegible]	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life [illegible]	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		[illegible] V (3:15 PM)		Hamlet (4:05 PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Doc Martin		Hustle		Murder 101: [illegible] Except The Dying			Hustle (11:15PM)
HBO			Beethoven's 5th			Path Of Destruction			Contact (6:35 PM)					Ray					Black Rain
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	[illegible]	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	[illegible]	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics/Arirang		ME TV		Bikini Frenzy			IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Decorating Cents	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	[illegible] Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	MTV Hits [illegible]					Get Spotted	06 Movie Awards Nominated & Clip'd	MTV News	MTV Hits	MTV Diyes		Boiling Points		VH1 Goes Inside: [illegible]	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Special		Violent Earth: Tornado		[illegible]		Top 5 - World Cup Cities	Top 5 - Amazing Moments	WOW! Wild Rio		About Asia		National Geographic Special		Violent Earth: Tornado	Violent Earth: Tornado	Planet Football: [illegible]	
NBN		[illegible]		[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible] (Live)		[illegible] Final Edition				[illegible] OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants [illegible]	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up [illegible]	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	New Era Avatar: The Legend Of Aang	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Walang Kapalit				Deadma				Greatest Hits				Hindi Pa Tapos Ang Laban				[illegible]
Qtv	[illegible]		[illegible]	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)	Global Window	Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9							RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider			Oras Ng Himala				Newswatch Now	TV [illegible] On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video				[illegible]		Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports							World Tennis Masters ep 5		NBA Jam	Sagupaan	2006 NBA Finals: [illegible]						Solar Sports Desk	World Tennis Masters ep 10	
Sports Plus				FIFA World Cup [illegible] Serbia & Montenegro						Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision 2	Rookie Manual	[illegible]	Wild Side	FIFA World Cup [illegible] Republic vs Italy			
Star Movies		U-Turn (3:00PM)				Erin Brockovich (4:50PM)				[illegible] (7:05PM)				Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde			Walking Tall (10:35PM)		
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	[illegible]	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		[illegible]		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker, Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Dance Idol	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			[illegible] (9:10PM)		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Luxury liner

Eyeliner not only enlarges and draws attention to your eyes, it also adds drama, sex appeal, femininity to your look

MADE up and ready

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Contributor

AS A MAKEUP ARTIST, IF THERE IS one thing I cannot live without that makes me feel beautiful and pretty and confident every day, it's my ever dependable eyeliner.

Even on big events, I can forego the mascara and eyeshadow but not my eyeliner.

Liner not only enlarges and draws attention to your eyes, it also adds drama, sex appeal, femininity, depending on your mood and how you apply it. On the flipside, though, liner is one of the trickier things to apply (but not the hardest, if I may emphasize), which explains why women are so scared and cautious to wear it and would rather stick to lipstick and mascara.

When applying eye makeup, which comes first—eyeliner or eyeshadow? Well, it really depends on the look you are trying to achieve.

LINED eyes

For example, if you want smoky eyes, dark shadows go on top of the liner to set it, but for a cat-eye effect, draw a dark liner over a pale shadow.

Eyeliner comes in three forms or types, each with a unique look and level of difficulty. One rule that applies to all three, though, is that liner should be pliable, meaning it should not be too stiff that it would tug the skin around your eyes. Remember that the eye area is the most sensitive and delicate part of the face, so be very careful and always practice a soft touch when applying liner.

Pencil is the easiest to apply. It goes on relatively quickly and blend easily. Very good for everyday use.

Automatic and mechanical felt tip pencils are always sharp, so be very careful. Precise lines can look too harsh, especially for someone of a certain age. Kohl pencil tends to be fatter and softer and have a powdery consistency. If possible, get a waterproof one because kohl tends to smudge, especially if you have oily skin.

Powder is the most natural-looking kind of eyeliner, and it is also easy to apply with a fine, short bristle brush. The only problem with powder eyeliner is it fades quickly, so smooth a bit of oil-free foundation across the lid first to make it last longer.

Liquid or gel eyeliner has the most precise, long-lasting and defined look. If applied improperly, though, it can look dated and old. It is the hardest type of liner to use. Liquid liner, that comes with a small pointed brush creates a very fine line, so it is ideal for beginners.

For a less intense effect, gently dot liner just between lashes with the tip of a brush. Liquid liner doesn't budge once it dries, but use a waterproof formula in humid conditions just in case.

Learning how to put on eyeliner is like riding a bike. Once you get used to it, it becomes automatic and you never forget it. So just practice and practice and practice. Remember that practice makes perfect.

E-mail bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

Away, raccoon eyes!

IF EYEBROWS ADD ESSENTIAL balance to our face and bring together all our features into a harmonious whole, then the eyes are the real focus of our face.

Many women are concerned with those dark circles that form around the eyes. These circles are caused either by poor circulation, genetics, alcohol or toxins.

As they say, we are what we eat. If you are fond of eating junk food, then it will definitely show in your skin and your face. People who are into chips and salty foods can definitely expect puffier eyelids and eyebags. These toxins cause that bluish tint under the eyes.

Some people want their eyes lifted (including me!) and have more defined creases in their eyelids. Plastic surgery is one option, but if you can achieve that look without the blood and the pain, then better. Just follow these easy, simple steps.

1. To cover up the dark blue or purple circles under the eyes, use a light peach or salmon concealer. The exact shade will vary depending on the tone of your skin.

Avoid using a concealer that is yellow or white. This will turn your undereye into a grayish color and create raccoon eyes. When buying, try the concealer on so you will see the effect on you.

2. Using a brush or your fingertips, apply concealer to the dark area beneath and above the eyelid. For me, using your finger is better because the heat of the finger will blend the concealer.

3. Apply foundation as needed around the face. Use as little or as much as you are comfortable with.

4. Dust loose powder all over your face to set the foundation and concealer.

5. Using an eye brush, apply a light neutral eyeshadow over the entire lid. Remember that the lighter and larger you make your lid, the larger and more open the eye will appear to be.

6. Using a brown or taupe pencil, line all over the top of the lash line. Line the bottom lash line only from the edge to halfway inward. This will elongate the eye, yet still keep it looking natural.

7. With a smudger brush and a dark eyeshadow, smudge out the pencil lines by going over the area with the liner. Use short up and down strokes and stay close to the edge of the lash line, creating a softer line and smoking the lashes out.

8. Using a blender brush, apply a medium warm earth-tone eyeshadow in the crease of the eye with a back and forth motion about three or four times. Using the crease opens up the eye by allowing you to make the lid as large as possible. The dark crease will draw attention to wherever it's placed, giving the effect of a more open eye.

9. Using a definer brush, apply the same dark eyeshadow to define the crease area and give dimension to the eye. Avoid using too much shadow here. Keep the dark crease thin and subtle. Creating or defining a crease area allows you to open up the eye.

NO DARK circles allowed

10. With the same all-over powder brush, use the same light neutral color that you applied to the lid to blend and smooth out the brow-bone area. This is actually a clean-up step in case you overextended the eyeshadow.

11. One of the last steps is to curl your lashes. Get the curler as close to the lashes as possible. As you close the curler, push it upward toward the eyelid. This is what actually curls the lashes.

12. Apply mascara as soon as you finish curling. Use black for that sexier look.

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan

E-mail bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

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Nail and beauty pampering for brides

CALIFORNIA NAILS AND DAY SPA, A NAIL salon and spa affiliated with the internationally renowned California Advanced Nail and Skincare (CANS), encourages brides-to-be, plus their entourage of bridesmaids and moms, to consult well-trained nail technicians ahead of time.

Owner and GM Leslie Matta, responsible for pioneering and bringing into the country the latest in acrylic and nail designs, says the time allowance allows "the ladies to discuss with their nail technicians which color would perfectly match the wedding motif, or whether they they grow their nails naturally or just avail of nail enhancements or acrylic nails."

According to Mata, it is advisable to get manicure and pedicure the day before the wedding so that the polish will look fresh and clean. Usually, if the color of the wedding gown is white, it's good to wear very soft and feminine polishes, like bright shimmery white, frosted white, pearly and sheer white, silver glitters or platinum. For pink or ecru gowns, perfect matches would be soft pinks and beige.

The French Tip Manicure is the most popular request in the Nail Spa.

Adventurous brides, on the other hand, may opt for nail enhancements to provide more space for edgy designs such as romantic nail arts or Swarovski crystal adhesives.

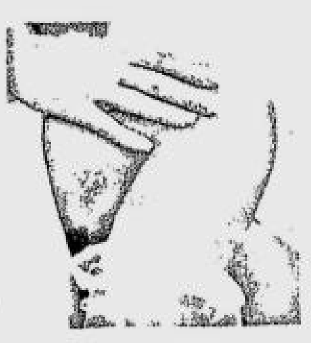
"Acrylic nails are also ideal for brides who are not so blessed with long and beautiful nails," says Matta. "They do not break easily so your nails always look perfect. But then, acrylic nails must be put on six to three weeks before the wedding day. The bride should come back the day before the big day for 'nail filling and filing.'"

At California Nails and Day Spa, brides-to-be may choose from the list of classic bridal packages. The top three wedding favorites are Here Comes the Bride (body scrub, California facial, manicure and spa pedicure), Wedding Day Jitters (aromatherapy massage, California facial, manicure and spa pedicure), and I do! I do! (body scrub, California facial, waxing, manicure and pedicure).

Avail of any of this package and get 10-percent off your bill.

The nail salon is also a fashionable venue for bridal showers, allowing the bride to bring in her bridesmaids for a spa party. California Nails and Day Spa also offers relaxing and pampering treatments for the groom and his buddies.

SAY "I DO" in your French tip nails by California Nails


WAXING is advised for soon-to-be brides

If the bride (and her entourage) would want more than a day to spoil herself, a five-week long beauty preparation and pampering is offered by the spa:

Five weeks to go: full-body waxing, including bikini line, aromatherapy massage, California facial, spa manicure and spa pedicure

Four weeks to go: body scrub, California facial, paraffin treatments

Three weeks to go: Soft fusion massage, California facial, waxing, and manicure and pedicure

Two weeks to go: Aromatherapy massage, California facial, paraffin treatments

One week to go: body scrub, manicure and pedicure

Two days before: California facial and waxing

One day before the day: Aromatherapy massage, manicure and pedicure

California Nails and Day Spa has branches in LPL Manor House (Salcedo Village), Altarejos Building (BF Homes, Parañaque), One Kennedy Place (North Greenhills, San Juan), Paseo de Magallanes (Makati City), Market! Market! Mall (Fort Bonifacio), ClubSixFifty Sports Center (Libis), Alabang Town Center (Muntinlupa City) and Asian Mansion II (Legaspi Village, Makati City). Call 8200105, fax 8205250, or e-mail calif_nailsdayspa@yahoo.com

Taste Of Manila 2006
Food in Art, Art in Food
June 23 - 25, 2006 TIENDESITAS Pasig City

PROGRAMME

JUNE 23, 2006
11:00am Opening Ceremonies and Ribbon Cutting "A Catered Affair"
11:30 Ribbon Cutting "Taste of Manila"
12:00 Edwin Uy Fashion Show Caterers at Work
2:00pm Swan Catering Cooking Demo for Nestle
2:30 The Red Chef Catering Cooking Demo for Century Tuna
3:00 Swan Catering Cooking Demo for Ajinomoto
3:30 Tamayo's Catering Cooking Demo for Nestle
4:00 Swan Catering Cooking Demo for Unilever
4:30 Josiah's Catering Cooking Demo for Del Monte
5:00 VS&F Classic Food Int'l. Cooking Demo for Silver Swan
5:30 Juan Carlo the Caterer Cooking Demo for Clara Ole
6:00 String Minstrel (Quartet)
7:00 Various Entertainers

JUNE 24, 2006
11:00am Marikina Rondalla
12:00 SJT (Quartet) Caterers at Work
2:00pm Josiah's Catering Cooking Demo for Nestle
2:30 The Red Chef Catering Cooking Demo for Silver Swan
3:00 Hizon's Catering Cooking Demo for Nestle
3:30 VS&F Classic Food Int'l. Cooking Demo for Ajinomoto
4:00 Al Navarro Catering Cooking Demo for Unilever
4:30 Juan Carlo the Caterer Cooking Demo for Silver Swan
5:30 Hizon's Catering Cooking Demo for Century Tuna
6:00-8.00 Del Monte Bar Tending

JUNE 25, 2006
11:00am Rommel Santiago
12:00 Marikina Dance Guild Caterers at Work
2:00pm Tamayo's Catering Cooking Demo for Unilever
2:30 Kusina ni Kambal Cooking Demo for Del Monte
3:00 VS&F Classic Food Int'l. Cooking Demo for Clara Ole
3:30 Kusina ni Kambal Catering Cooking Demo for Ajinomoto
4:00 Juan Carlo, the caterer Cooking Demo for Century Tuna
4:30 Kusina ni Kambal Catering Cooking Demo for Nestle
5:00 Al Navarro Catering Cooking Demo for Clara Ole
5.30 Josiah's Catering Cooking Demo for Unilever
6:00 Various Entertainers

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Lip-locked

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

LOOKING BACK AT THE TIME when I was still a college student, I remember that every single peso I saved went a long way. But there's a downside to frugality. In buying cheap, one may also end up spending more if only to replace the cheap good of poor quality with a more expensive good of relatively better quality. Spending for two products means one has squandered money which would have been better used to buy a special item one has been drooling over.

How I wish there was someone back then who, like me now, was aware of beauty bargains and reasonably priced quality items and who could let other people know about them!

Looking through the Avon catalog, I was pleased to see that a lot of its popular items are now on sale big time!

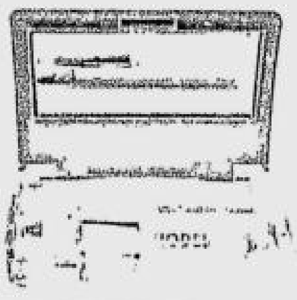
My ultimate favorite, the Cellusculpt, is now only P599 compared to the original price of P799. The Anew Force Extra Triple Lifting Night Cream for those aged 35+ is just P589 from P999.

Among Avon's bath and body products, my favorite is the Avon Shampoo for oily hair, the Naturals Purifying Green Tea and the Eucalyptus, which treats hair odor and removes the grease without leaving the hair stiff (from P129, they're now down to P99); and Avon Feelin' Fresh white antiperspirant deodorant (from P145 down to P75).

For the makeup addict, Avon quality products on sale are: Glimmersticks eyeliner (from P250 to P199); Stay True eye colors (from P399 to P299, I like the Touch of Spice and Lilac Dream colors); and Astonishing Lengths waterproof mascara, (from P390 to P209), which can compete with other well-known mascara brands but at a much cheaper price tag. With perfect lash definition, there'll be no clumping your looks.

Those who demand long-lasting lipsticks that don't dry lips may try the Transfer Resistant Long-Lasting Wear (from P420 down to P199), which lasts a good six hours and is the hands-down best deal in this big sale.

Heavenly Cappuccino gets my vote for the best shade for any skin color.



PERFECTION Lip Wax Kit by Model Co

Get yourself a catalog for P10 and see if your must-have items are on sale. They are just too many to mention in one article.

Beauty Bar

Have you checked out the nearest Beauty Bar outlet to you lately? It has this new makeup line from Australia called Model Co., which has reasonably priced products and a very wide range of items for face and body.

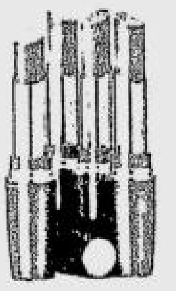
I have yet to find the time to road-test the products, but I must mention certain products that may address women's more immediate beauty concerns.

Wonderfull Lip Plumper. This comes in one clear shade and five tinted shades. It is actually a gloss that contains essential oils of ginger and cinnamon that when applied all over the lips will give a cool and warm tingle while stimulating circulation on the lips. As the blood rushes, the lips become fuller and redder even as the tingle subsides. I applied the pale-beige shade Cinnamon Spice which made my lips Angelina Jolie-pale for a while, then made them redder and fuller. It has a clear shade which doesn't have the spicy "flavor" some girls don't like; but I still went for the colored choices. Warm Chestnut is a nice nude mauve; and Fiery Red gave my lips that natural shade of red one could only get after torrid kissing! Don't expect a dramatic increase of the lips however as that would be the job of the next product.

MODELCO Colourbox Wonderfull lip plumpers

Perfection Lip Wax Kit. Now you can mimic the lip shape of your favorite movie star! Just line your lips to the shape you want then apply the lip wax and fill in all the lines. Apply the lipstick color of your choice and get the shock of your life because you seriously cannot tell where your real lips end and where the wax begins. When I applied it, people thought I went for Hydrogel or Perlane lip injections at Vicki Belo's!

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



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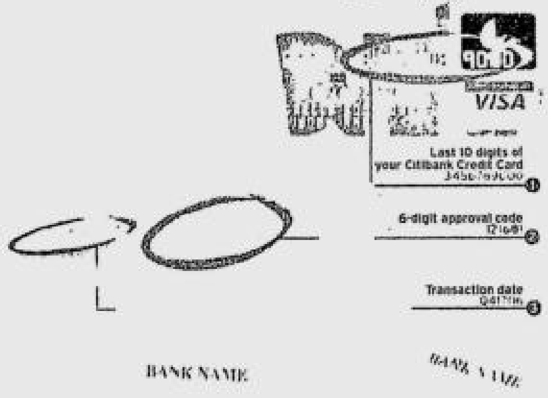

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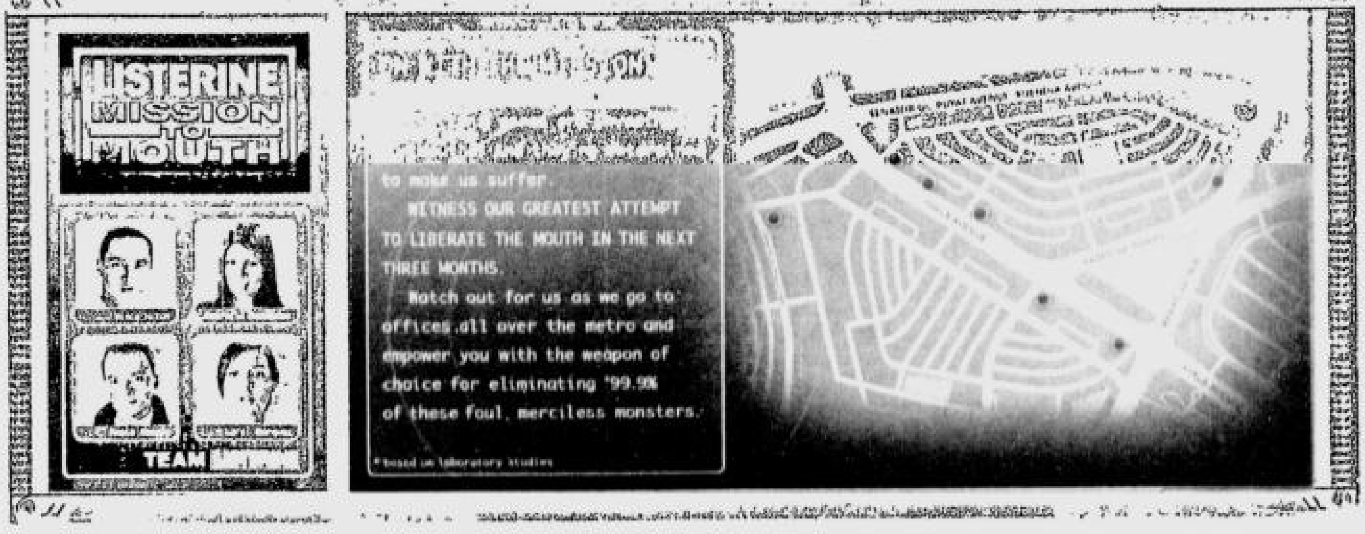

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Burn, baby, burn!

The temperature rises as the anticipation heightens for the disco-flavored 'Bench Fever'

By Genea Padilla
Contributor

IT ALL BEGAN IN 2000 WITH "Brief Encounters." Then, four years ago, Bench teased us with "One Night Only," then the tantalizing "Understatement" in 2004.

This year it's going to be hotter than ever—so hot, it's called "Bench Fever."

What does it take to mount an underwear show the way Bench does? What makes its shows special that even after a slew of copycats, people still keep coming back for this brand's underwear show?

By now, we all know that these Bench events are more than just about showcasing fashionable underwear. They have grown into big extravaganzas eagerly awaited to be seen, enjoyed and judged by all.

A peek behind the scenes shows why Bench holds these shows only biennially. That each show is a major production is a given, but what the viewing public never sees is the seemingly endless planning, attention to detail, collaboration and coordination required to make this one night happen.

The show has become groundbreaking in its own way. This year, the models' go-see alone was a mini-event in itself, attended by celebrities and covered by TV and print media. This open casting call assured a big turnout of professional models and aspiring ones.

"Bench Fever" has gathered such a momentum that its making is now being documented on film and in print.

The buzz is ever-growing, what with the daily media coverage and the ads and billboards popping all over town. Everyone involved in the production is beginning to feel the mounting tension as things speed toward the big day. These people are seeing the production take shape first-hand, from concepts to meetings, go-sees, pictorials, fittings, and now to rehearsals before the show.

The temperature will keep on rising as the anticipation heightens for the disco-flavored "Bench Fever." But for now, all we can do is pray, "Burn, baby, burn!," and hope to get our hands on tickets to the Big Dome.

What: "Bench Fever"
When: Friday, June 30, 7 p.m.
Where: Araneta Coliseum

MODEL BIANCA KING
PHOTO COURTESY OF BENCH

Turn to E2 for a sneak peek of the making of Bench Fever

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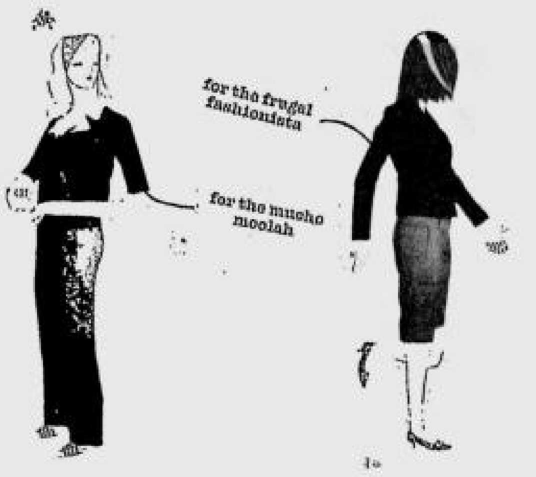
Splurge vs. steal

Your style quotient does not rise or fall according to the price tag of the items you're wearing


for the frugal fashionista
for the mucho moolah

(Left): MARNI jacket, P35,698; sleeveless inner top, P12,998; and twill pants, P26,498. Balenciaga shoes, P27,798. All available at Homme et Femme, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **(Right):** Imani jacket at SM Department Store, P899.75; and cropped pants, P549.75. Iora sleeveless inner top at Glorietta 3, P1,100. Catch shoes at Robinsons Galleria, P1,050

for the mucho moolah
for the frugal fashionista

(Left): PEOPLE are People sequin jeans, P1,299; and metallic gray bag, P1,199. SM Department Store belt, P149.75 **(Right):** Seven for All Mankind jeans with rhinestones and studs at Anthem, R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, P22,500. Anne Klein belt at Rustan's Department Store, P3,560. YSL gray leather bag, P63,450 for the small bag; and P78,850 for the large bag. Prada black evening shoes, P34,000

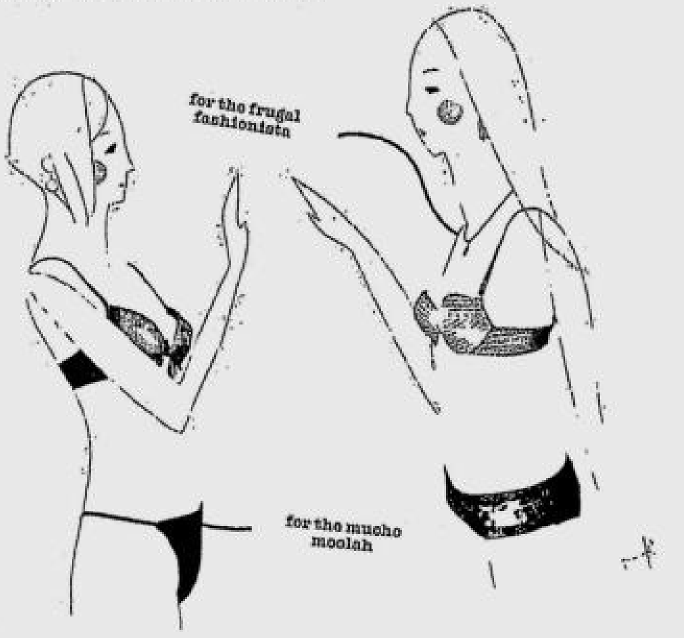
A HOT YSL MUSE BAG OR A timeless Hermes Birkin does not a stylish woman make. Your style quotient does not rise or fall according to the price tag of the items you're wearing. Although some people are dazzled by designer logos and the latest must-have items, dressing with panache is not about how much money you have in your pocket.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Having enough moolah to acquire expensive designer pieces is undeniably a major plus. Items from brands like Balenciaga, Prada, Louis Vuitton and most especially Hermes are unparalleled and well worth their sky-high prices—if you can afford them. It obviously helps to have a bottomless financial well, but this does not in any way guarantee sophistication, style and class.

Those who live and shop on a budget can take heart in the fact that they can look as stylish as Kate M., Audrey H., Jackie O., or any other style icon for that matter, without breaking the bank. The key is in knowing who you are and what suits your personality, body type and age best. It's about feeling comfortable in your own skin and projecting confidence no matter what you're wearing.


for the frugal fashionista
for the mucho moolah

(Left): CHRISTIAN Dior blue bra, P6,772, and blue bikini, P2,428. Both from Lingerie by Suonos store at Glorietta 3. Tiffany Voile earrings with round diamonds, P532,000; and Tiffany Atlas bangle in 18k white-gold with diamonds, P390,500. All from Tiffany & Co. at Rustan's Department Store.
(Right): Bench Body blue bra, P299.75, and bikini, P169.75. Venice Jewelry at Glorietta 3 two-tone pendant, P3,339; with black rubber necklace, P2,790; white-gold link bracelet, P5,220; and white-gold earrings with Russian diamonds, P6,732

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PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHY ERWIN BARLETA/EDGE OF LIGHT STUDIO
STYLING DIRECTION MILLET ARZAGA

Burn, baby, burn!

go-see go-see go-see go-see go-see go-see
see go-see go-see
cover shoot cover shoot cover shoot cover shoot cover shoot cover shoot cover shoot
fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting fitting

ANGELICA Panganiban

MANILA'S top models Valerie, Nicolette and Mafae at the go-see with hundreds of other hopefuls

WATCH out for the Bench [illegible] Backstage Scenes [illegible] magazine featuring [illegible] cover models [illegible] Marco, Francine [illegible]

L-R MODEL Ivo is catalogued; designers Rhett Eala and Randy Ortiz style their models according to assigned themes; hunky Barney waits for his turn

BEHIND-THE-SCENES PHOTOS OF A
AND ZARO MARU

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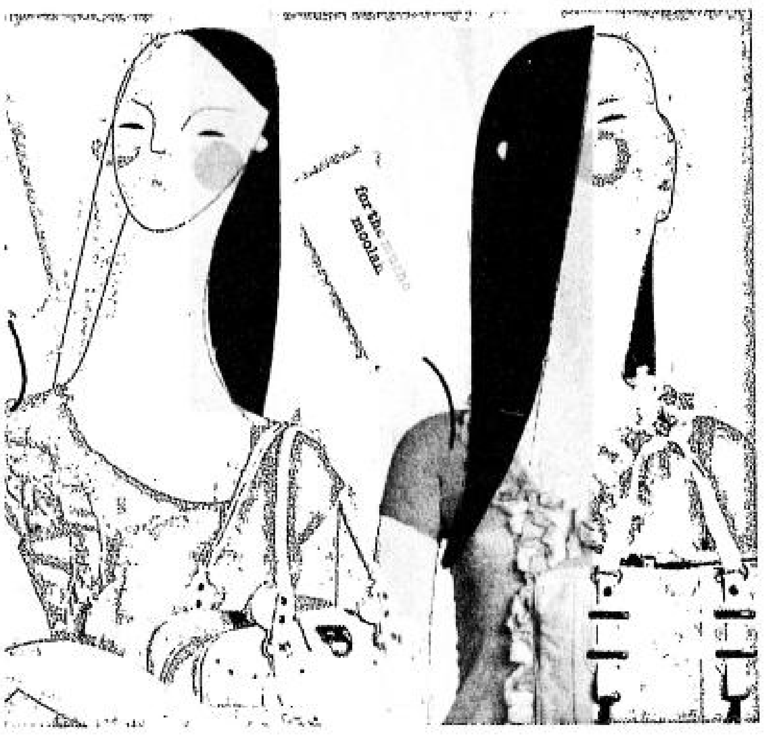


KAMISETA powder-blue tee with flower patch, P499. Secosana white bag, P999.75 Balenciaga ruffled light-gray tee, P26,598; and Balenciaga white hook box bag, Both available at Homme et Femme, Shangri-La Plaza Mall

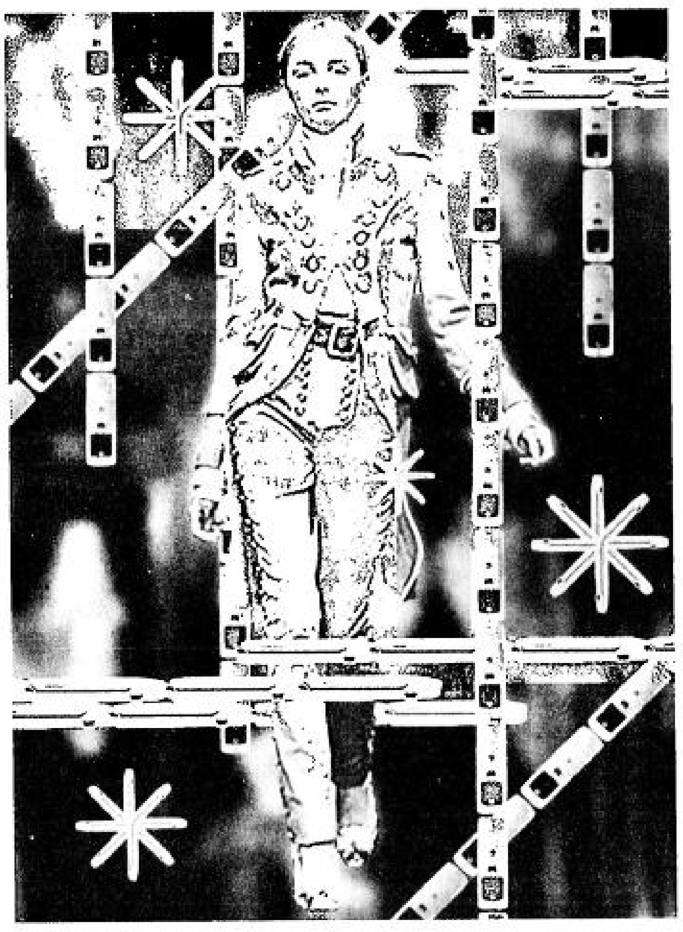
se, it helps to have a sharp eye for nds that reflect your personality and art. It's not about acquiring the "it" em that everyone wants to have. It's ling The One that nobody else has. ut expressing who you are through es—of clothes, as well as lifestyle.

a-savvy and über-chic woman once n't splurge, I don't look for deals, I s because they're me."

She has a point. So whether you're a twentysomething new grad with barely a penny to spare or a trust-fund baby like Paris H., here are some options to suit your style and budget.

Now, repeat after me: "Wear your clothes, don't let them wear you!"

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



YOU'RE so khaki

igging for old

From page E4

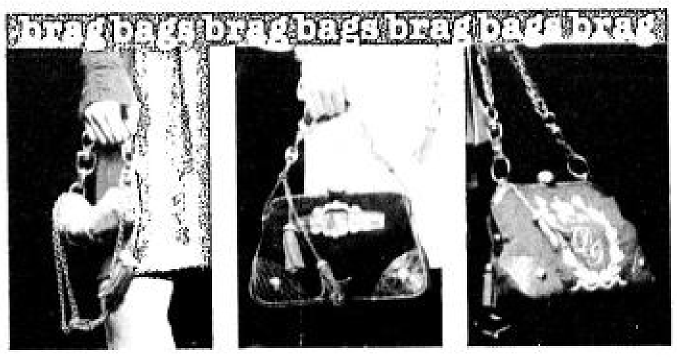
savers, a tailored sound for power up and down, an exclusive polyphonic ring tone and a video clip showing unique animation and 20 years of Dolce & Gabbana history.

In another deal brokered just this year (hold your breath, football fanatics and women), David Beckham has just become Motorola's global brand ambassador. So if you've got the Motorola V3i by Dolce & Gabbana, not only will you have the world's sexiest phone, you will also have the latest updates on and images of the world's sexiest football player.

From fashion to phone, Dolce & Gabbana are the true generals of the game. Any fashionista knows that all it takes is one too many gold accessories to be the country's biggest fashion faux pas.

But somehow, despite the abundance of gold, silver and rich fabrics that could be named after semi-precious stones (emerald-green velvet, ruby-red brocade and sapphire silk), Dolce & Gabbana can bedeck you head to toe and you'll never cross over from swanky to skanky.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



show-off shoes show-off shoes

350 ways to enjoy life from Acer

Bam! Summer's just ended, but not with Acer Philippines, Inc. For them, summer is just starting, and it's still scorching hot at this time of the year, with prizes galore that's sure to tickle everybody's brains with delight. Well, at least for the next two months.

Acer Philippines, Inc. introduces its "Win with Acer - Enjoy Life Promo" where every purchase of an Acer notebook computer or desktop gives customers the chance to win exciting prizes.

If you're not excited yet, try this for starters. For the 1st prize, two lucky guys can win round-trip tickets for two to the USA. Well, your guess is right! These are round-trip tickets to two of the most exciting places on this planet, the jaw-dropping and awe-inspiring Universal Studios, and to the young and young-at-hearts' number one favorite, Disneyland. These prizes come packed with 4-days, 3-nights hotel accommodation and whole day long fun, adventure, and excitement at Universal Studios and Disneyland.

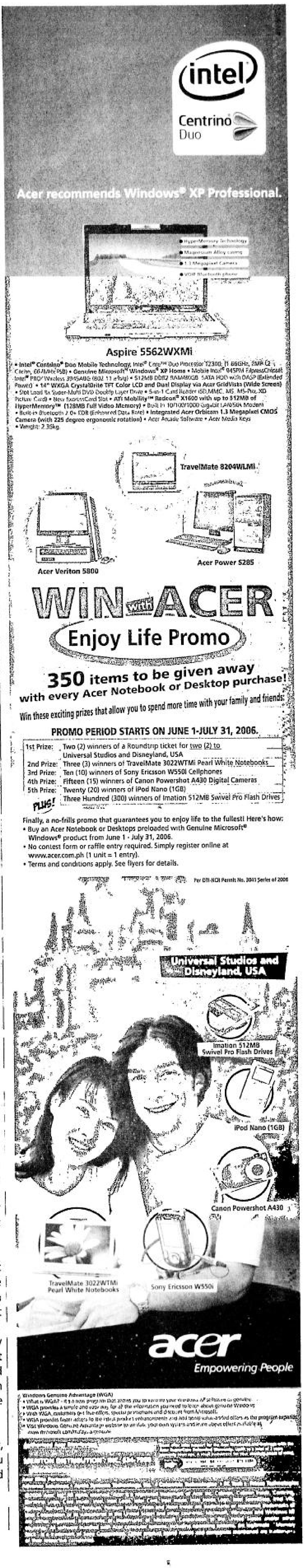
For the other major prizes, three lucky individuals get to bring home one Acer TravelMate 3022WTMi Pearl White "White Angel" notebooks each for the 2nd prize that he can show off to friends, office mates, and family members. Ten winners, on the other hand, will win Sony Ericsson W550i mobile phones for the 3rd prize, while 15 lucky customers can win Canon Powershot A430 digital cameras and 20 can win 1GB iPod nano MP3 players for the 4th and 5th prizes, respectively.

But don't feel bad if you don't get any of the majors, since 300 other individuals can take home Imation 512MB Swivel Pro Flash Drives!

So how do you get these fun and exhilarating rewards? It's simple. Buy any Acer product, that means either a notebook computer or a desktop that's pre-loaded with genuine Windows operating system from June 1 to July 31, 2006 at any participating Acer reseller nationwide and you get the chance to bag these goodies.

To join, just log on at www.acer.com.ph and fill out the customer information registration page. Each Acer product purchased is equivalent to 1 electronic raffle entry. Raffle draw will be held on August 10, 2006 at the Acer Philippines, Inc. head office, located at Unit 3401, 34th floor, PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino Sts., Makati City.

So buy that Acer product now, and be rewarded-remember, you have 350 chances to win and extend your summer enjoyment.



• Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology, Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T2300, (1.66GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 667MHz FSB) • Genuine Microsoft® Windows® XP Home • Mobile Intel® 945PM ExpressChipset Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945ABG (802.11 a/b/g) • 512MB DDR2 RAM/80GB SATA HDD with DASP (Extended Power) • 14" WXGA CrystalBrite TFT Color LCD and Dual Display via Acer GridVista (Wide Screen) • Slot Load 8x Super-Multi DVD Double Layer Drive • 5-in-1 Card Reader (SD, MMC, MS, MS-Pro, XD Picture Card) • New ExpressCard Slot • ATI Mobility™ Radeon® X1600 with up to 512MB of HyperMemory™ (128MB Full Video Memory) • Built in 10/100/1000 Gigabit LAN/56k Modem • Built-in Bluetooth 2.0+ EDR (Enhanced Data Rate) • Integrated Acer Orbicam 1.3 Megapixel CMOS Camera (with 225 degree ergonomic rotation) • Acer Arcade Software • Acer Media Keys • Weight: 2.36kg.

350 items to be given away with every Acer Notebook or Desktop purchase!

Win these exciting prizes that allow you to spend more time with your family and friends:

PROMO PERIOD STARTS ON JUNE 1-JULY 31, 2006.

1st Prize: Two (2) winners of a Roundtrip ticket for two (2) to Universal Studios and Disneyland, USA
2nd Prize: Three (3) winners of TravelMate 3022WTMi Pearl White Notebooks
3rd Prize: Ten (10) winners of Sony Ericsson W550i Cellphones
4th Prize: Fifteen (15) winners of Canon Powershot A430 Digital Cameras
5th Prize: Twenty (20) winners of iPod Nano (1GB)
PLUS! Three Hundred (300) winners of Imation 512MB Swivel Pro Flash Drives

Finally, a no-frills promo that guarantees you to enjoy life to the fullest! Here's how:
- Buy an Acer Notebook or Desktops preloaded with Genuine Microsoft® Windows® product from June 1 - July 31, 2006.
- No contest form or raffle entry required. Simply register online at www.acer.com.ph (1 unit = 1 entry).
- Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3041 Series of 2006

Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA)

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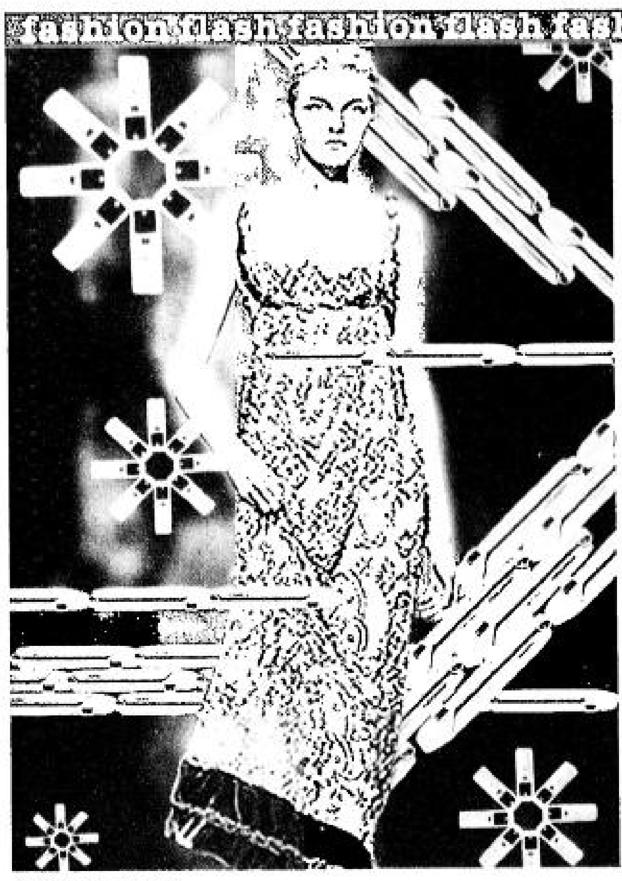
fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion



GOLDEN empire

GILDED amazon

FULL metal jacket

Dynamic design duo Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana display their Midas touch in their 2006 Autumn-Winter collection

PRODUCT SHOTS AND ARTWORK DIX PEREZ
RUNWAY PHOTOS WWW.STYLE.COM

igging for old

NO OTHER DESIGN house oozes opulent sexiness as Dolce & Gabbana. And no other design house can claim to have popularized the black bra that peeks through see-through blouses and tight dresses.

Dressing the hottest stars of today—from Madonna and Kylie Minogue to Isabella Rossellini and Naomi Campbell—this powerhouse pair are the uncontested generals of fashion.

And now they march forward to further cement their worldwide fashion domination with their 2006 Autumn-Winter Collection.

Dolce & Gabbana brings back the fashion of Napoleon's beloved wife, Josephine, with its luxurious empire-cut dresses in emerald, red velvet and old-gold brocade. Never have double-breasted military jackets looked so sexy and opulent with brazenly rich capes and arrogant high-collar shirts. The collection is a tableau of the play between *homme et femme*.

A friend has complained, "there is nothing original left in the world." And this is true in the world of fashion; to those who are fans of "Project Runway," you'd know that there is a fine line between inspiration and plagiarism. But Dolce & Gabbana, while drawing from the Napoleonic era, also does something original through its exquisite workmanship, magnificent fabrics and painstakingly executed embroidery.

If Napoleon's army had been dressed like this, it might not have felt so bad about losing in Waterloo.

Unfortunately for us delusional enough to want to prance around in velvet, we will only have to weep because this collection, save for a few bags and shoes in Rustan's, is not available in the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

I'M WITH THE DRUMMER

Jenni Epperson

Chic phone

But fret not for Dolce & Gabbana, ever innovative and inventive, has decided to dominate in another battlefield: the Motorola V3i by Dolce & Gabbana. This new sexy phone marries Motorola's groundbreaking design with Dolce & Gabbana's signature style to become the gold bar of telecommunications.

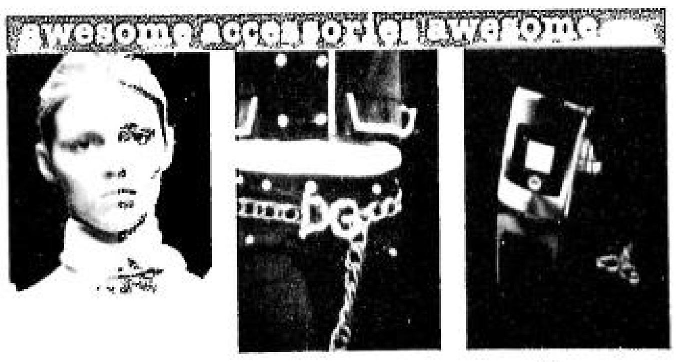
This phone is a guilty pleasure laden with gold and silver, engraved with the Dolce & Gabbana logo. Each unit comes with an exclusive pendant featuring the gold DG initials (ok, you may drool now). Do take note that there are only 1,000 units in the world… Oops, I just got one! I guess, still 999 left!

Customized features include special backgrounds, screen-

DIGGING/ E3

the golden collection the golden

awesome accessories awesome



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TURQUOISE sleeveless crew-neck shell and long-sleeved cardigan, both in cotton; ladies' spandex skort in khaki; and white sun-visor with the golden bear logo

ON him: pure navy merino wool sweater vest over blue button-down shirt; shell pants in beige. On her: alabaster, hot pink-and-white argyle V-neck sweater over white short-sleeved knit with Chinese-collar herring on front, both in pure cotton; putty green skort in spandex

Swing away

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEE OFF with the world's best amateur golfers in a prestigious tournament named after no less than the world's greatest golfer himself?

All male and female amateur golfers above 21 years old who are Filipino citizens and holders of valid Philippine passports can take their best swings in the local qualifying event of the Jack Nicklaus International Invitational tournament to be held July 3 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club.

A P3,500 single-receipt purchase per person of Jack Nicklaus apparel and/or accessories at any Rustan's Department Store in Metro Manila and Cebu on May 15-June 30 entitles you to a registration form for the tournament. Green fees, golf carts and food are all free, plus participants get a Jack Nicklaus International Invitational signature shirt.

Qualified participants will then vie for the grand prize of representing the Philippines in the Jack Nicklaus International Invitational to be held at the Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida, this November. There will be two winners for the Grand Prize, each of whom will also be entitled to a round-trip airfare and a four-days, three-nights accommodation with full meals.

Two winners for the second prize will also receive a round-trip airfare to Dubai each courtesy of Gulf Air, while two third-prize winners and a guest each will be entitled to a round-rip airfare and a three-days, two-nights accommodation with breakfast at El Nido Resort in scenic Palawan.

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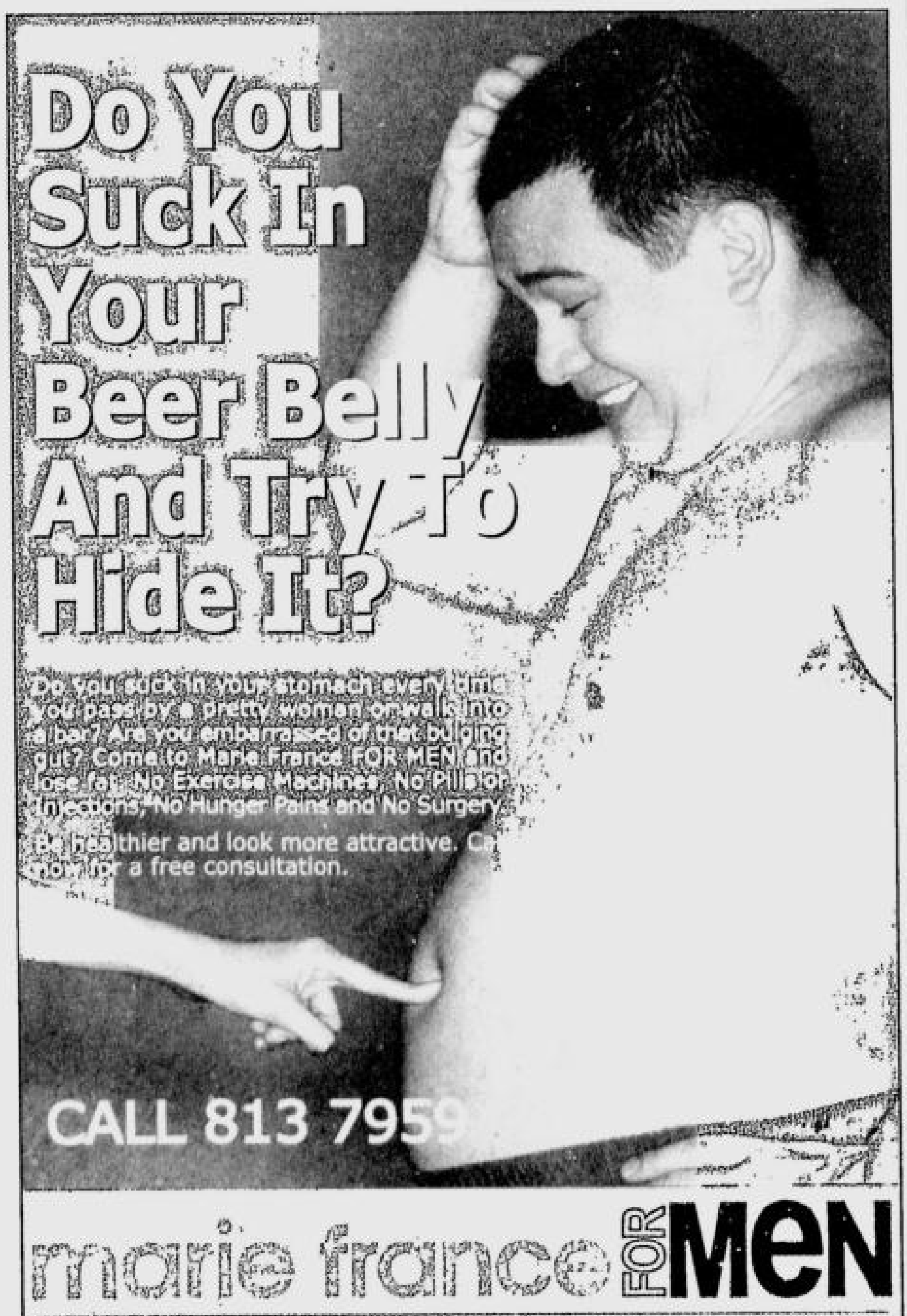
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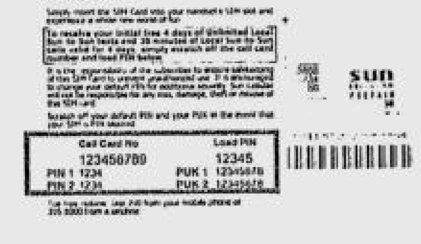
With the new Sun Cellular Prepaid SIM Pack, for the first 3 months you can enjoy 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited & FREE 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls every month.

Mechanics

1. To enjoy your first month's FREE service, you must load the Call Card Number and PIN found at the back of your SIM housing, by dialing 220 and following the voice prompt.



2. To receive your 2nd and 3rd month's FREE service, you must simply load a cumulative REGULAR LOAD of at least P30* during your 1st & 2nd month, respectively.
   - * Call Card and Xpress Load included.
   - * Give-A-Load is excluded.
   - * Amount in excess of P30 will not be credited the following month.

Example:
- * Subscriber activates his SIM on April 1 and enjoys his 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls.
- * Subscriber must load P30 from April 1 to 30 to receive his next 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls on May 1.
- * Subscriber enjoys his 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls from May 1 to 4.
- * Subscriber must load another P30 from May 1 to 31 to receive his next 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls on June 1.

3. Regular load from the following products will be considered:
   a) Regular Call Cards (P50, 150, 300 and 500)
   b) Xpress Load
   c) P50 E-vouchers from 7-Eleven, Select, and Mini-Stop
   d) Regular load from the new variants of 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited
4. The regular load (at least P30/month) you need in order to receive your 2nd and 3rd free service is a regular consumable load and is separate from the free service.

With your Sun SIM, you may load any of the following prepaid choices:

IDD for 10
24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED
Xpress Load

See flyers for details.

MEDIA'S *first famille*. PDI royals, businessman Alex Prieto and wife, PDI chair of the board Marixi Rufino Prieto; man of the hour Manny V. Pangilinan, First Pacific CEO; young, brilliant Sandy Prieto Romualdez, PDI president and CEO; Charlie Rufino; and Philip Romualdez, Benguet Corp. president

ROSANNA D. with husband, GMA 7's Jimmy Duavit, and Butch Jimenez

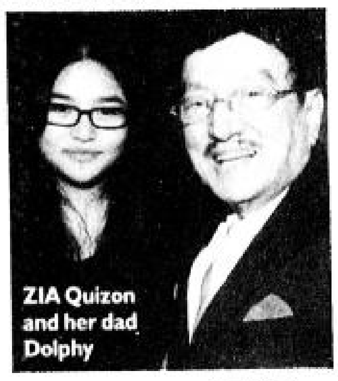
FIRST Pacific's David Nugent and Julie Cacellier with Metro Mag's Ipe Cruz

Pacific-wide party for Asia-Pacific conglomerate

ARCHBISHOP of Manila Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and former President Corazon Aquino

SO IN LOVE. James Yap and gorgeous wife Kris Aquino

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta and Metro Society's Raul Manzano



ZIA Quizon and her dad Dolphy

AL PANLILIO and stunning wife Angel

EYE-CATCHING Lucy T. and husbandDavid Tang

THE MAIN men of First Pacific celebrate their silveranniversary. First Pacific chair Anthony Salim and mega CEO Manny Pangilinan with some of their loyal staff at the back

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE HOTTEST TICKET OF the year was definitely the supremely elegant, completely dazzling and meticulously planned First Pacific's 25th Anniversary. The big event had jetsetters trooping to Hong Kong's posh Four Seasons Hotel, *palanggas*.

First Pacific is, *naturellement*, the listed Hong Kong-based conglomerate which happens to be the parent company that created the Smart mobile juggernaut and turned PLDT into the most profitable company in the Philippines for the past three years. It is also the parent company of Indofood, the Indonesian version of San Miguel, which makes practically everything found in your kitchen cupboard. It is also the parent company of Metro Pacific, the Philippine conglomerate.

The Philippines' business whiz kid, **Manny V. Pangilinan**, had founded First Pacific 25 years ago with a partner, with only US$500,000 in capital from the the incredibly wealthy Salim *famille* of Indonesia, (among the most prominent and largest business families in all of Asia) and turned it into the corporate titan it is now that does over an awesome US$2 billion in turnover. It has nearly 50,000 employees across the region and its companies are the dominant players in their markets. So to celebrate its first 25 years, a grand party was the order of the day. And what a bash it was, *palanggas*!

The white Carrera marble staircase of the chi-chi Four Seasons Hong Kong was decorated in silver rose petals, while the mezzanine of the Grand Ballroom had tons of overflowing roses, and a giant silver-framed photo panel.

The hotshot namedroppables who jetted in from all over the globe were enough to make you snap to attention. Heading the Indonesian set was no less than First Pacific's honorary chair, **Liem Sioe Long**, otherwise known as "Soedono Salim," the patriarch of the Salim *famille*. He was accompanied by his son, **Anthony Salim**, First Pacific's chair and Pangilinan's partner for nearly 30 years.

The Hong Kong contingent had super socialites such as **David Tang**, founder of Shanghai Tang and board member of First Pacific; First Pacific director **Edward Tortorici** and his elegant wife, **Anita**, who jet-sets between Hong Kong and San Francisco; and Philippine Ambassador to Washington **Albert del Rosario**, also a First Pacific board member, who later presented an award from **President Macapagal-Arroyo** to Manny V. P.

Heading the Philippine hotshots were esteemed former President **Corazon C. Aquino** and Manila Archbishop **Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales**. Together with them were President Aquino's daughter, **Balsy Cruz**, and nephew, **Rapa Lopa**, and his glamorous wife, **Didi**.

The INQUIRER's beautiful Prieto *famille*, were there, headed by *la simpatica y elegante* **Marixi Rufino Prieto**, PDI board chair, and her husband, businessman and golf whiz **Alejandro "Alex" Prieto**; their daughter, brilliant **Sandy Prieto Romualdez**, PDI's president and CEO, who was looking chic in her black gown, accompanied by her tall, good-looking husband, **Philip Romualdez**, president of Benguet Corp.

Of course, my ever dearest **Tessa Prieto Valdes** dashed in late-ish. She had jetted into Hong Kong from San Francisco, and came bedecked in a gown that had all the Hong Kong crowd wondering, "Who was Tessa's couturier?"

Loads of old money mixed with new, like, beautiful couple **Pedro Roxas** and wife, fashion plate **Gina Tambunting R.**, who is on the board of PLDT, chatted with fellow board member, **Tessie Sy-Coson**, who was beaming withe pride because of the hugely successful opening of her *famille*'s humongous SM Mall of Asia.

The rest of PLDT's board were there in full top force, including Fr. **Bienvenido Nebres**, Ateneo de Manila president; Shell chair **Oscar Reyes** (with wife **Editha**, sharing cocktails with **Chari Lao** and **Amado Bagatsing**); PLDT and Smart president **Napoleon Nazareno** (with petite wife **Cecilia**): and PLDT CEO **Christopher Young** (with wife **Olivia**).

Bert Romulo was with his super-fun wife, southern lady **Olivia Montinola R.**

Sen. **Kiko Pangilinan** was also there with megastar-wife **Sharon Cuneta**, who graciously acceded to sing (she was looking much slimmer). The indomitable **Dolphy** was there with daughter **Zia**. His wife, gorgeous **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, blew him kisses as she superbly performed on stage.

Moi doesn't think a star-studded concert of this magnitude was ever attempted! **Martin Nievera** jetted in from Europe to perform, as well as the fabulous **Lani Misalucha**, who came to town from her headline show in Las Vegas. She got a standing ovation from the mega shakers from around the globe with her fantastic opera number, "Nessin Dorma." Also wowing the audience were **Kuh Ledesma**, Zsa Zsa, **Christian Bautista** and **Mon David**, who had won the London International Jazz Festival.

World-class musical director **Louie Ocampo** conducted a full orchestra, set against a fairy-tale stage directed by the dynamic **Robby Carmona**. The concept and execution of the concert were by Metro Pacific's **David Nugent** and fabulous talent manager **Joji Dingcong**.

Champagne flowed, fois gras was served aplenty and the best the Philippines had to offer was there to show a world-class crowd that we are nothing but world-class, dahlings.

Adorable **Kris Aquino** was absolutely radiant as she hosted the pre-concert program with **Boy Abunda**.

Manny V. P. thanked First Pacific's employees "for their years of long-service and dedication." Each one received a gold ingot!

The concert repertoire included everything from the musical "Gypsy" to **Madonna** and even **Barbra Streisand**. The two encores had everyone on their feet, dahlings.

After the concert ended, everyone partied in different Hong Kong clubs until 5:30 a.m.—except Manny Pangilinan who reported to his waterfront office bright and early the next morning, ready to chart the next 25 years of First Pacific's.

Here's to greater years ahead for First Pacific and to Mr. Wonderful himself!

DAZZLING stars of the night. Mon David, Kuh Ledesma, Zsa Zsa Padilla, host Manny V. Pangilinan, Lani Misalucha, Martin Nievera and Christian Bautista

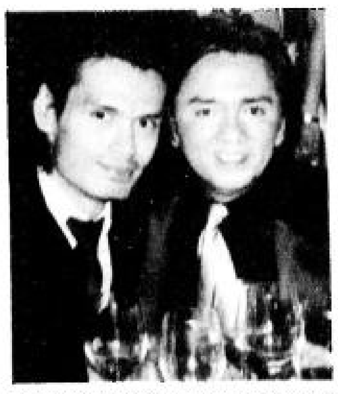
METROBANK'S Alfred Ty and SM's brilliant Tessie Sy

POPULAR Sen. Kiko Pangilinan

MOI, top soundman Jaime Godinez, world-class composer Louie Ocampo and Philippine Tatler editor in chief Anton San Diego

WORLD-CLASS singers Lani Misalucha, Sharon Cuneta, Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla

RAJO Laurel with cool couple Maya and Bummer Santiago



SUPERMODEL Peter Nordell and architect Anton Mendoza

RP Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario and wife Gretchen

CHARI Lao and husband Amadi Bagatsing

GINA Tambunting and husband, business magnate Pedro Roxas

PLDT'S Napoleon Nazareno and wife Cecilia

MONS Romulo Tantoco and Lianna Romulo

The Claudio Bravo women—and some men

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IF THERE'S ONE MUST-HAVE HIGH-society wannabes cannot have, it's a Claudio Bravo portrait. That makes it more desirable. Only a highly select group of Manila's women—about 30—had their portraits done in the '60s by this visiting Chilean portraitist.

A Claudio Bravo portrait has become a priceless heirloom to families of these women, some of which are still the focal point of their living room—a topic of conversation. If there's one status symbol, it is that.

In time, the women came to be called "Claudio Bravo Women."

This was brought to mind when Metro Society editors featured the "Claudio Bravo Women" in the latest issue of the magazine. We were surprised to discover that many of these women, through four decades, have kept their portraits in prime space in their homes, if not in their lives.

It seems only one portrait had been abandoned, in a manner of speaking—that of Ferdinand Marcos. According to banker-turned-society editor Raul Manzano, after the Marcoses fled Malacañang in 1986, Imelda Marcos saw to it she got her Bravo portrait (the famous one showing her in wind-blown terno) back from the Palace; it is now in the Marcoses' San Juan residence. The Claudio Bravo portrait of Ferdinand, however, was not retrieved.

Among the women Bravo painted in the '60s were Chona Kasten, Elvira Manahan, Imelda Cojuangco, Gretchen Oppen-Cojuangco, Chita La'O Lopez, Tingting Cojuangco, Nitang Lopez. He also did the Zobels—including Jaime and Bea, the artist Fernando Zobel. Jaime Augusto Zobel, now chair of the Ayala Group, was not even 10 years old when his portrait was done.

One of Manila's most beautiful, Sam Eduque, the publicity-elusive granddaughter of Elvira Manahan, was only a baby when she sat for Bravo.

In 1968, a Bravo portrait cost only five thousand. Today it is said it could fetch a seven-figure sum on the market, in dollars.

And to think Bravo was in the Philippines for only six months in the '60s, to attend the opening of the then Savoy Hotel (later Hyatt), according to writer Rene Guatlo of Metro Society. Never has a brief presence been more lingering.

Helen the painter

Speaking of painting, not so many people know that one of the most influential women in Philippine business can paint—Helen Yuchengco Dee, the helmswoman of the Yuchengco Group of Companies. Some of her works are at the Yuchengco Museum at RCBC. We hope they still are anyway, because it seems this businesswoman is most diffident about her art. She's low-key in everything to begin with, to convince her to reveal her works is an even harder task. But somehow museum curator-consultant Jeannie Javelosa has been able to pull it off.

US anthem in Tagalog

A few weeks ago, in San Francisco, I had the interesting experience of listening to the Pinoy podcast of San Francisco Chronicle. It was designed by and for Filipinos in the Bay Area. I never thought so many Filipinos or Fil-Americans work in the Chronicle until I heard their podcast. But what really felt weird, in a good way, was hearing Joey Ayala sing the Star-Spangled Banner—in Tagalog. Ayala himself translated it.

Like Carmel

Once in a rare while, our editor in chief is able to get away from the pressure-cooker newsroom to the liberating space of the world outside. She had such jaunt recently and went to the Cliffhouse in Tagaytay, which is getting to be the favorite relax-dine destination of many. She's still recounting it to this day. They had their salad and appetizer at Paul Huang's Fire Lake Grill, their main course at Linda Floro's Buon Giorno.

Huang was a marketing executive for many years before he realized his real love was cooking—and this, after having survived a brain tumor.

The group also lingered at Domicillo, the home store with wine bar. Cliffhouse is a multi-experience destination—you can dine, shop or just chill out at the balcony overlooking a placid Taal Lake.

As our editor in chief says, "It's so like Carmel." Now you can't give a better compliment than that, coming from someone who doesn't pay compliments easily.

FIRE Lake Grill in The Cliffhouse

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOBOT MERU FOR METRO MAGAZINE

'Devil'

While everybody awaits the opening of "The Devil Wears Prada," the bestseller made into a movie starring Meryl Streep as Miranda Priestly, the power editor who made her staff assistant's life miserable and whose character is believed to have been inspired by Vogue's Anna Wintour, an early screening was held in New York. What made this screening unique was that it was solely for the editorial assistants of fashion glossies.

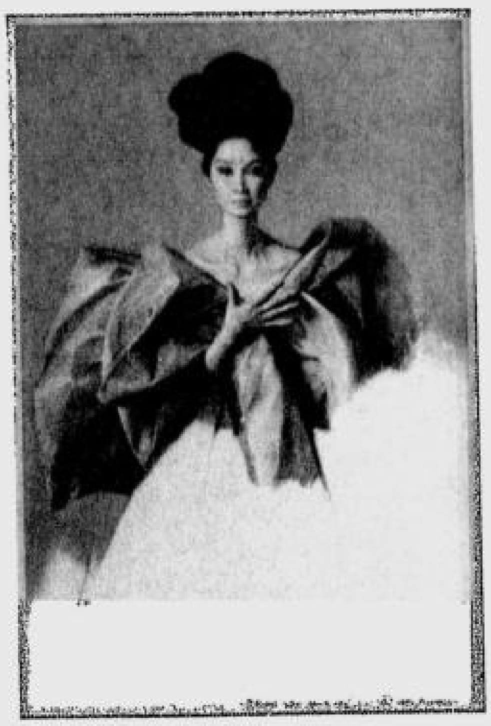
According to WWD, most magazines sent their assistants. The report also mentioned what an editor told her assistant after watching the movie: "If you ever do that to me, we split royalties."

As usual, Mario Katigbak designed his Bulgari event impeccably. The unveiling of its high jewelry collection was held at Ayala Museum at cocktails and dinner time. It was a no-fuss but elegant affair, with Jackie Aquino's models standing the whole time on a black revolving platform, wearing the diamond necklaces, earrings and rings. Never had I seen such high-wattage diamonds hang down such slim backdrop of a model's neck. The arrangement was minimalist—all in an understated black.

Out in the garden, the cocktail buffet table was on a platform lit from underneath—a muted but pervasive light that was a contrast to the black tables and simple white blooms. It was arranged, of course, by Mario's usual décor collaborator, the banker-turned-florist Robert Blancaflor. (What is it about banking that drives men to the arts?)

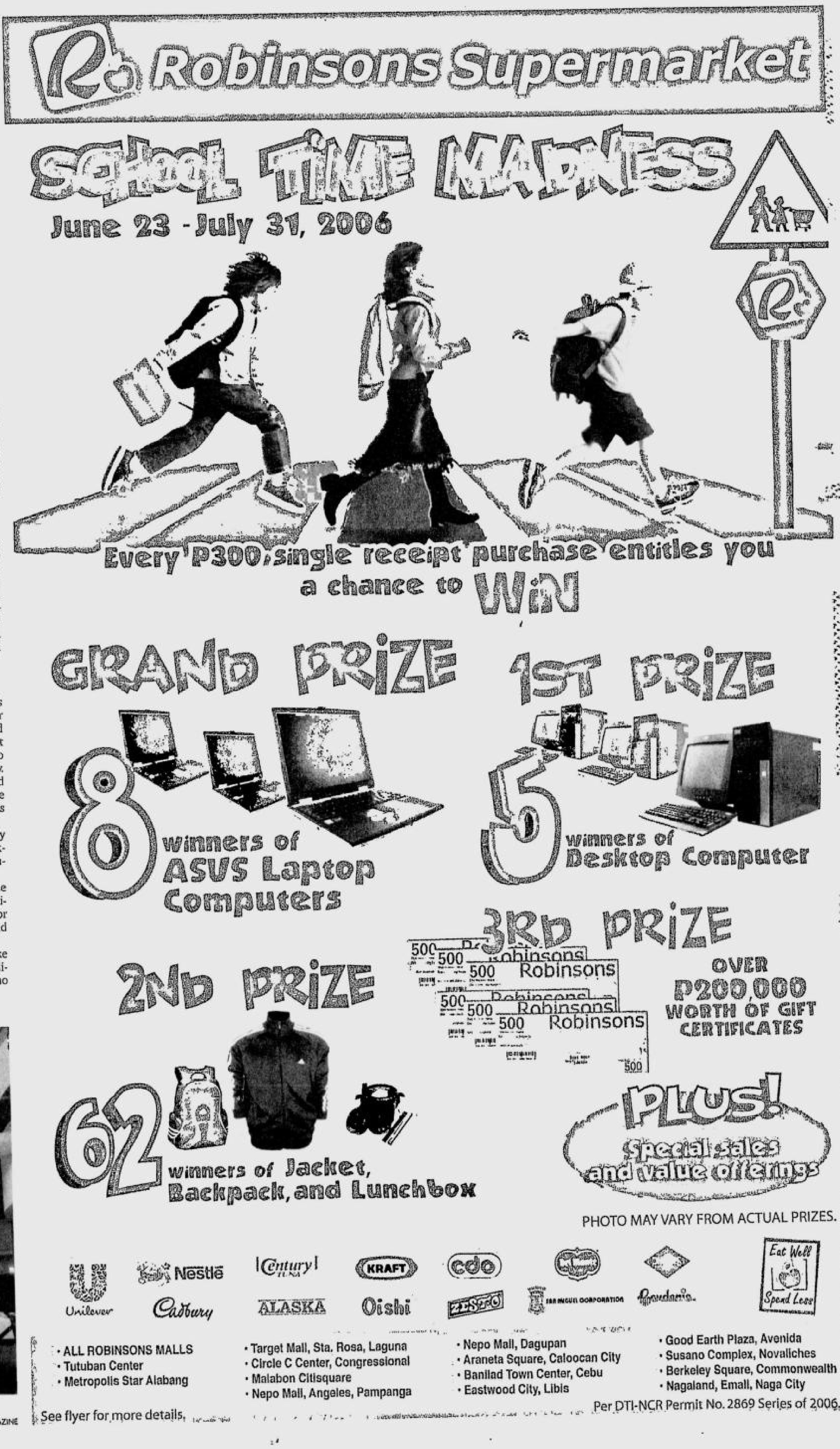
The balance between corporate and classic elegance—Mario has mastered that for Bulgari.

Write feedback to thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com



PORTRAIT of Imelda Cojuangco

The Chilean artist painted the definitive portraits of members of Manila high society in the 1960s



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June 23 - July 31, 2006

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GRAND PRIZE
8 winners of ASUS Laptop Computers

1ST PRIZE
5 winners of Desktop Computer

2ND PRIZE
62 winners of Jacket, Backpack, and Lunchbox

3RD PRIZE
OVER ₱200,000 WORTH OF GIFT CERTIFICATES

PLUS!
Special sales and value offerings

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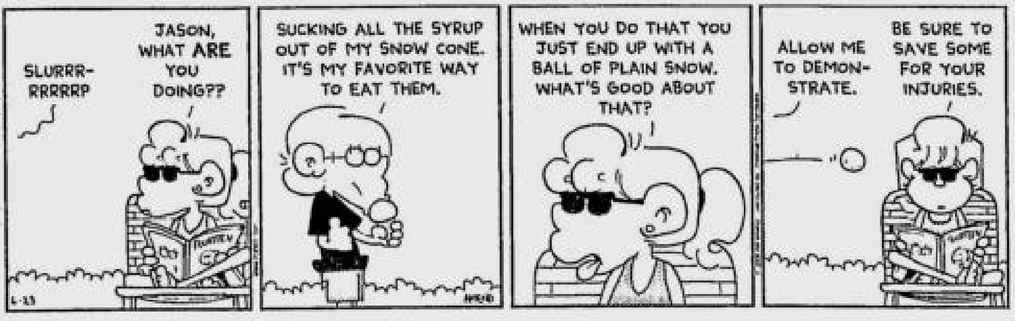
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Nepo Mall, Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Banilad Town Center, Cebu
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth
- Nagaland, Emall, Naga City

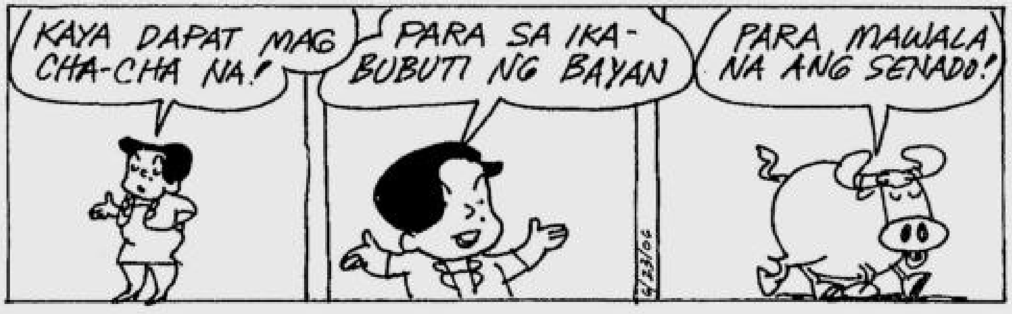
See flyer for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2869 Series of 2006.

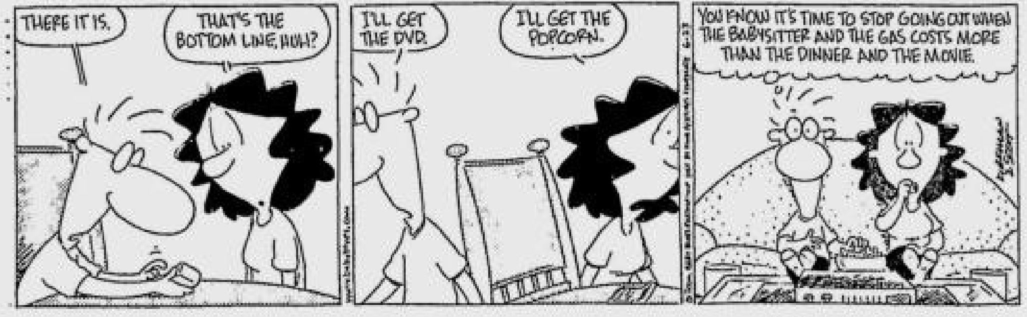
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


SLURRR-RRRRRP
JASON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING??
SUCKING ALL THE SYRUP OUT OF MY SNOW CONE. IT'S MY FAVORITE WAY TO EAT THEM.
WHEN YOU DO THAT YOU JUST END UP WITH A BALL OF PLAIN SNOW. WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT THAT?
ALLOW ME TO DEMON-STRATE.
BE SURE TO SAVE SOME FOR YOUR INJURIES.

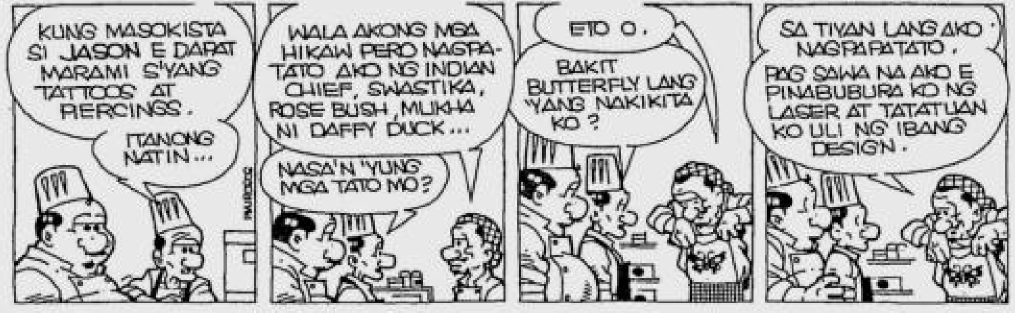
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA DAPAT MAG CHA-CHA NA!
PARA SA IKA-BUBUTI NG BAYAN
PARA MAWALA NA ANG SENADO!

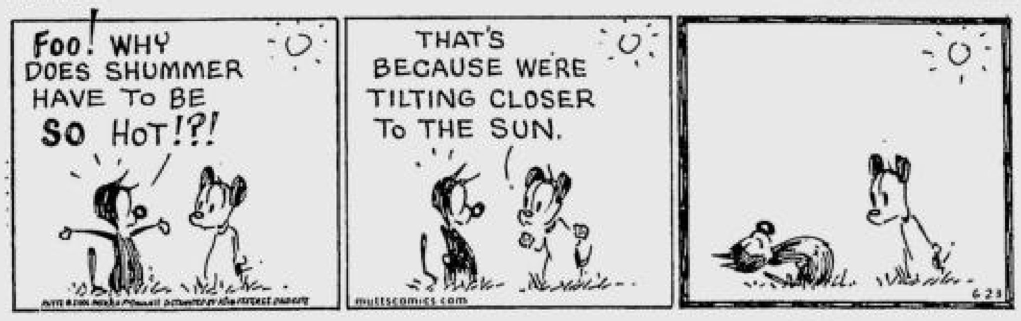
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


THERE IT IS.
THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE, HUH?
I'LL GET THE DVD.
I'LL GET THE POPCORN.
YOU KNOW IT'S TIME TO STOP GOING OUT WHEN THE BABYSITTER AND THE GAS COSTS MORE THAN THE DINNER AND THE MOVIE.

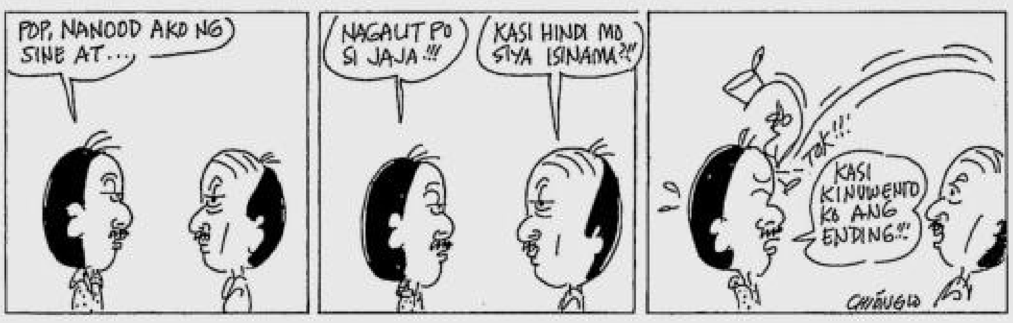
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUNG MASOKISTA SI JASON E DAPAT MARAMI S'YANG TATTOOS AT PIERCINGS.
ITANONG NATIN...
WALA AKONG MGA HIKAW PERO NAGPA-TATO AKO NG INDIAN CHIEF, SWASTIKA, ROSE BUSH, MUKHA NI DAFFY DUCK...
NASA'N 'YUNG MGA TATO MO?
ETO O.
BAKIT BUTTERFLY LANG 'YANG NAKIKITA KO?
SA TIYAN LANG AKO NAGPAPATATO.
PAG SAWA NA AKO E PINABUBURA KO NG LASER AT TATATUAN KO ULI NG IBANG DESIGN.

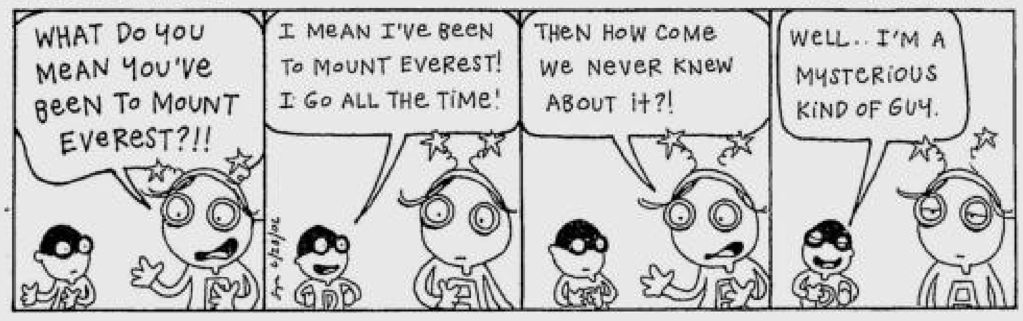
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FOO! WHY DOES SHUMMER HAVE TO BE SO HOT!?!
THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE TILTING CLOSER TO THE SUN.
muttscomics.com
6-23

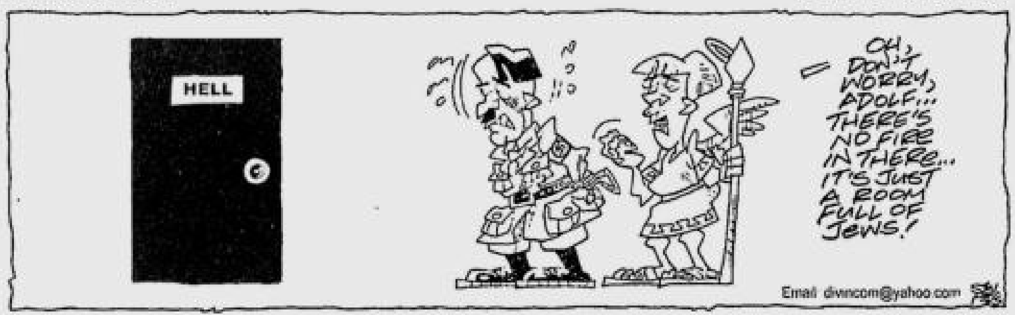
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, NANOOD AKO NG SINE AT...
NAGALIT PO SI JAJA!!!
KASI HINDI MO SIYA ISINAMA?!!
TOK!!!
KASI KINUWENTO KO ANG ENDING!!!
CHIONGLO

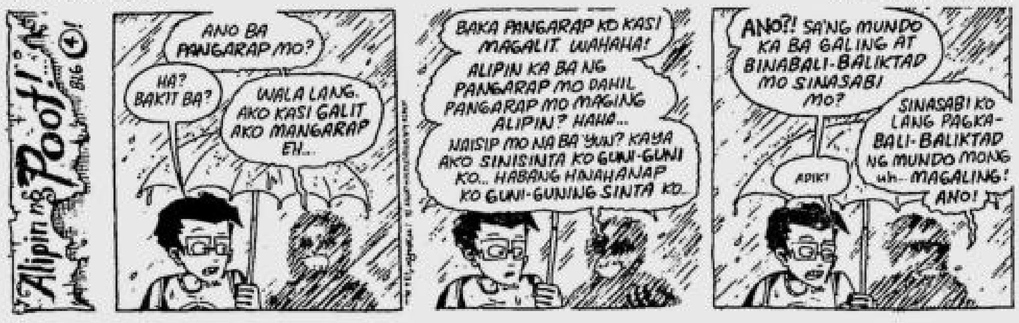
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN TO MOUNT EVEREST?!!
I MEAN I'VE BEEN TO MOUNT EVEREST! I GO ALL THE TIME!
THEN HOW COME WE NEVER KNEW ABOUT IT?!
WELL.. I'M A MYSTERIOUS KIND OF GUY.

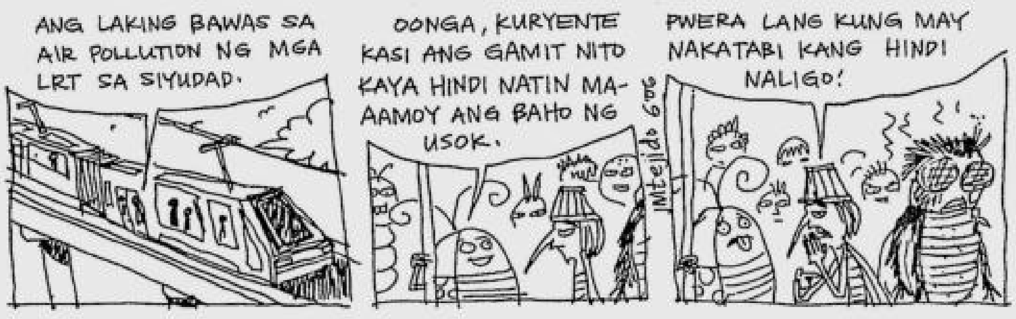
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HELL
OH, DON'T WORRY, ADOLF... THERE'S NO FIRE IN THERE... IT'S JUST A ROOM FULL OF JEWS!
Email divincom@yahoo.com

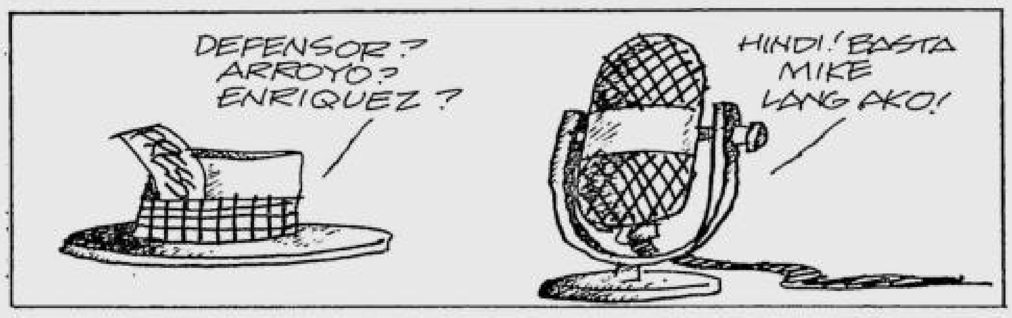
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


Alipin ng Poof!
ANO BA PANGARAP MO?
HA? BAKIT BA?
WALA LANG. AKO KASI GALIT AKO MANGARAP EH...
BAKA PANGARAP KO KASI MAGALIT. WAHAHA!
ALIPIN KA BA NG PANGARAP MO DAHIL PANGARAP MO MAGING ALIPIN? HAHA...
NAISIP MO NA BA 'YUN? KAYA AKO SINISINTA KO GUNI-GUNI KO... HABANG HINAHANAP KO GUNI-GUNING SINTA KO...
ANO?! SA'NG MUNDO KA BA GALING AT BINABALI-BALIKTAD MO SINASABI MO?
ADIK!
SINASABI KO LANG PAGKA-BALI-BALIKTAD NG MUNDO MONG uh.. MAGALING! ANO!

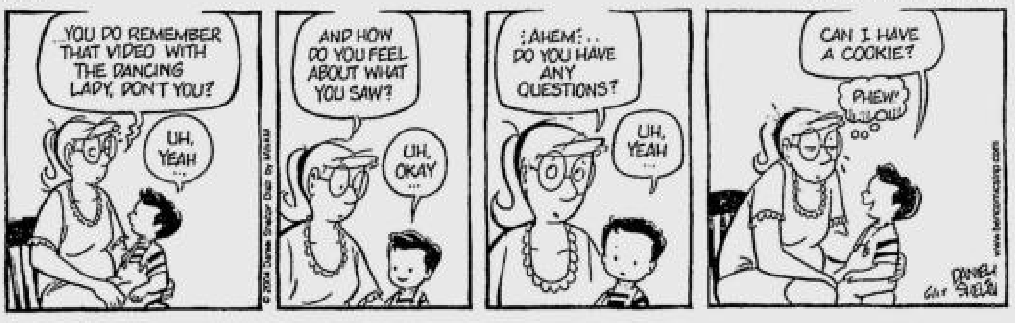
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG LAKING BAWAS SA AIR POLLUTION NG MGA LRT SA SIYUDAD.
OONGA, KURYENTE KASI ANG GAMIT NITO KAYA HINDI NATIN MA-AAMOY ANG BAHO NG USOK.
PWERA LANG KUNG MAY NAKATABI KANG HINDI NALIGO!

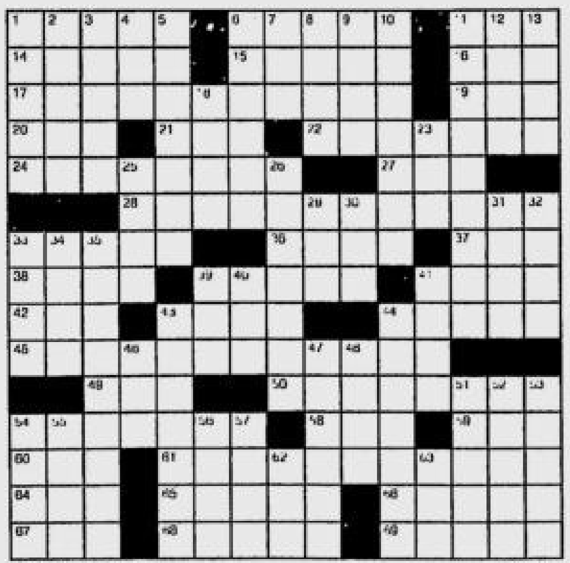
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DEFENSOR? ARROYO? ENRIQUEZ?
HINDI! BASTA MIKE LANG AKO!

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU DO REMEMBER THAT VIDEO WITH THE DANCING LADY, DON'T YOU?
UH, YEAH...
AND HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW?
UH, OKAY...
:AHEM:.. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
UH, YEAH...
CAN I HAVE A COOKIE?
PHEW!
DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR
6/23/06

ACROSS
1 Barn bedding
6 "GoodFellas" co-star
11 Zeus or Jupiter
14 Writer Segal
15 Homegrown
16 Cry of discovery
17 See 61A
19 Get the gold
20 Barely get by, with "out"
21 Attempt
22 "The Waste Land" poet
24 Says again
27 Obtained
28 See 61A
33 '50s candidate Stevenson
36 Wickedness
37 Harem room
38 Lion's den
39 Strong polyester film
41 Hungarian violinist Leopold
42 Ninny
43 Second son
44 Puts in one's chips
45 See 61A
49 Christian denom.
50 Unique person
54 Suggest
58 Spoiled
59 Bambi's aunt
60 Tennis coach Tiriac
61 Bright
64 Shoe part
65 __ Dame
66 Eaglet's abode
67 Fore's counterpart
68 Ski lifts
69 Snooped

DOWN
1 Rainwater conduit
2 Three-wheeler
3 Greets the day
4 Top marksman
5 Riddle-ending query
6 Cast member
7 Long time, geologically
8 Dundee lad
9 Crow calls
10 Against the law
11 Deprive oneself
12 John Glenn's state
13 "__ Be Cruel"
18 Miss in Sp.
23 Dejected
25 Romanov ruler
26 Astral
29 Gardner of films
30 Mister
31 __ fixe (obsession)
32 Golfers' norms
33 Melodramatic cry
34 Short race
35 "A Different World" star
39 Wharton School deg.
40 Affirmative answer
41 "Lonely Boy" singer
43 Designate
44 French-American dialect
46 Eminem's music
47 Data displays
48 Asian sea
51 Swerves
52 Nonprotruding navel
53 Glutted
54 Pocket bread
55 Housetop
56 Uppity one
57 Kett of comics
62 Goof up
63 Earth: pref.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	M	E	L	■	T	I	E	R	■	A	G	R	A
A	D	A	N	O	■	O	R	N	E	■	I	O	U	S
T	A	K	E	C	A	R	E	O	F	■	R	E	P	S
E	R	E	■	O	N	A	N	■	■	I	B	S	E	N
S	S	R	S	■	T	H	E	M	I	N	U	T	E	S
■	■	E	P	E	E	S	■	E	G	G	S	■	■	■
T	H	A	I	N	■	■	K	N	E	E	■	D	E	E
A	N	D	T	H	E	H	O	U	R	S	W	I	L	L
P	A	Y	■	A	S	A	P	■	■	T	A	S	K	S
■	■	■	A	N	T	I	■	B	U	S	T	S	■	■
T	A	K	E	C	A	R	E	O	F	■	T	O	S	S
A	W	A	R	F	■	■	L	O	O	I	■	L	E	I
S	A	R	I	■	T	H	E	M	S	E	L	V	E	S
T	I	M	E	■	R	I	M	I	■	N	E	E	D	S
E	T	A	S	■	A	M	I	D	■	S	A	S	S	Y

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6/23/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very clever and quick to grasp new things. In fact, others often underestimate you. You have good financial savvy. Although you often appear quite serious, privately you're very playful. Romance is important to you; you can be swept away by love. Exciting, new beginnings beckon to you this year. Be open to anything!

Birthdate of: Frances McDormand, actress; Alfred Kinsey, researcher; June Carter Cash, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, you might see just how much love there is in your daily life. Casual contacts, acquaintances, siblings and friends do care about you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You love beautiful things, especially antiques, wood, pewter and silver. You're one of the great collectors of the zodiac. Expect to discover some lovely things that please you in the month ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today fair Venus moves into your sign, where it stays for almost four weeks. This makes you charming and diplomatic. It's also a good time to buy wardrobe items.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you in the month ahead. You need time by yourself to contemplate your navel. (Or read the manuals for your appliances.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Friendships become more important in the next few weeks. Accept all invitations. Enjoy good times with friends. Join organizations. Artistic people will delight you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Romance with your boss or someone older is possible now. You could develop a crush on somebody who seems to be successful and more established in life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You long to slip away to somewhere different! You need a change of scenery. You also want to learn more about life and the big world out there. At least do something different—change your routine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): There's a good chance that others will give you gifts, goodies, inheritances or insurance settlements in the next few weeks. You could also gain through your partner

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): While Venus sits opposite your sign, it's an excellent time to smooth over troubled waters with friends and partners. This opportunity exists for the next three to four weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Relations with coworkers will improve in the month ahead. You might also become more attached to a small pet. Matters of health and hygiene also interest you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're starting to feel playful and flirtatious! You want to go out more and party. That's because you want to have a good time in the next month.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Work hard to make where you live look more beautiful. This is a good time to treat a family member. Family gatherings are more warm and loving now.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku
by Dave Green

	8	5	1	3	4	7	2	
	3						8	
	6			5			7	
	7		3		2		4	
	9			6			3	
	5						9	
	2	1	7	8	9	6	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★
6/23

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	2	9	7	1	5	8	6
8	7	1	4	6	5	2	3	9
6	9	5	8	3	2	4	7	1
1	6	3	7	8	4	9	5	2
9	4	7	2	5	3	1	6	8
5	2	8	6	1	9	3	4	7
3	5	6	1	2	7	8	9	4
2	8	9	3	4	6	7	1	5
7	1	4	5	9	8	6	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★